



ExaSAN B08S2-PS

User Guide

Includes hardware setup information for:
PCIe RAID System Models: B08S2-PS
QSFP HBA Model: ACS-63200NT (Z1M)
QSFP PCIe Cables

Also includes software setup information for:
RAID Management Software:
RAIDGuard X

Accusys, Inc.,

Dec 19, 2012
Version: V1.1



Revision Sheet

[illegible]

PREFACE

Notice

The product features and specifications described in this guide are subject to change without notice.

The manufacturer shall not be liable for any damage, or the loss of data resulting from the performance or use of the information contained herein.

About This Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of the ExaSAN (pronounced X-sa-SAN) B08S2-PS, a revolutionary high bandwidth storage system, specifically designed for all post production storage. It delivers stability, exceptional performance, and scalable capacity at a very affordable ownership cost.

This guide also contains instructions for installing and using the ExaSAN B08S2-PS system and RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) technologies and RAIDGuard X (ExaSAN's RAID management software).

If you are new to RAID and RAIDGuard X, this guide will help you become familiar with these technologies, and assist you in setting up and using RAID on the B08S2-PS. If you are already familiar with these technologies, use this guide as a reference for implementing your ExaSAN B08S2-PS RAID solution to achieve maximum performance and reliability.

For details of hardware installation, setup, configuration and considerations, see

- Chapter 1, "Introducing ExaSAN PCIe2.0 Storage System"
- Chapter 2, "Preparing to Install ExaSAN B08S2-PS"
- Chapter 3, "Installing ExaSAN B08S2-PS"
- Chapter 4, "Using RAIDGuard X"
- Chapter 5, RAID Overview

Guide to Conventions

Inside the double boxes are important information that users should be aware of:

Caution

This indicates the existence of a potential hazard that could result in personal injury, damage to your equipment or loss of data if the safety instruction is not observed.

Note

This indicates useful tips on getting the most from your Accusys RAID system.

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Document version 1.0

Date Published: November, 2012

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This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

ExaSAN B08S2-PS User Guide

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1. Introducing ExaSAN PCIe 2.0 Storage System

1. Introducing ExaSAN PCIe2.0 Storage Systems

1.1 System Overview

Your new ExaSAN (pronounced “X-sa-SAN”) PCIe 2.0 Storage System “B08S2-PS” is one of a family of PCI-express based storage and switch solutions from Accusys capable of transferring data at up to 20 Gb/sec. The small form factor B08S2-PS can be used on a desktop, rack, or in a transportable environment as a DAS (Direct-Attached Storage) or SAN (Storage Area Network) storage solution for the post production and broadcasting industries that require high bandwidth

1.1.1 What is the ExaSAN Solution

Developed by Accusys, Inc., a worldwide leader in RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) storage systems, ExaSAN is a family of storage and switch products that take advantage of well known PCIe (PCI Express) technology speeds, standards, and roadmap. The current ExaSAN products employ PCIe2.0 protocol that provides a 5 Gb/sec per lane transfers. With 4 lane QSFP (Quad SFP) connectors and cables, ExaSAN can transfer up to 20 Gb/sec using single port QSFP HBA's. With a dual port QSFP HBA, data transfers up to 40 Gb/sec are available to the connected workstation. The ExaSAN total solution, including its complete line of rack mount systems, tower systems, PCIe switch systems and accessories, puts the benefits of shared, scalable, and high-performance storage within easy reach of organizations with limited IT resources and budgets.

Post production work including non-linear editing (NLE) requires high bandwidth storage to quickly move the volume of data being processed, and ExaSAN storage solution meets those demands. The high bandwidth provided by ExaSAN technology allows the client to complete editing tasks in a much shorter time to save time and money. ExaSAN is available as a complete solution that includes the PCIe RAID system, cable and HBA card in a DAS configuration.

Figure 1 below depicts the ExaSAN B08S2-PS system solution architecture in a DAS environment.



Figure 1: B08S2-PS DAS environment

Whether it's collaborative video editing in a post-production workgroup, or a shared research project in a university, the ExaSAN solution offers a range of performance levels and storage capacities that scale to meet the needs of small-to-medium-sized organizations. Equally important and useful is its integrated design, centralized administration and monitoring, and a suite of built-in management tools; which eliminate the need for a staff of experts to install and maintain a SAN for the workgroups.

Figure 2 below depicts a typical ExaSAN system solution architecture in a SAN environment.

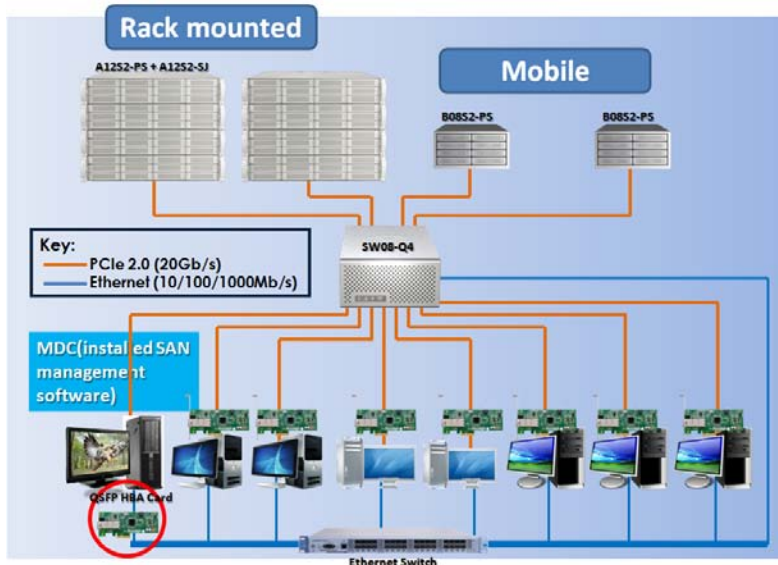


Figure 2: B08S2-PS SAN environment

1.1.2 What is the ExaSAN B08S2-PS Solution

The ExaSAN B08S2-PS is a 8Bay disk array system in a small form factor employing the latest PCIe2.0 technology with support for RAID level 0, 1, 5, 6, 0+1, high speed 2.5" 6Gb SAS and SATA II drives. The Single port RAID controller of B08S2-PS combined with 8 drives can provide up to 20 Gb/s transfers.

Your ExaSAN B08S2-PS system package consists of the components listed below.

1. ExaSAN B08S2-PS PCIe RAID system, see Section 1.1.3.1 and 1.1.3.2
2. QSFP-PCIe 2.0 Host Bus Adapter, compatible with PCIe 2.0 and 1.1 slots on the host server, see Section 1.1.3.3
3. QSFP 2M copper cable for connecting the HBA installed in the host to the RAID. Additional cables are optional, see Section 1.1.3.4
4. AC power adapter and Power cord, see Section 1.1.3.5

Note that items 1 through 4 are Accusys-supplied equipment as part of the B08S2-PS package. The host server and HDD for the RAID are not Accusys-supplied equipment. Contact your System Integrator/Value Added Reseller if you need assistance in purchasing these components.

1.1.3 ExaSAN B08S2-PS Components and Accessories

This section provides detailed description of each system component and accessories included in the B08S2-PS package.

1.1.3.1 ExaSAN PCIe RAID System

The B08S2-PS RAID system is a small transportable RAID system supporting up to 8 hot swappable hard drives or flash drives (sold separately). See 1.1.3.2 for HDD / SSD.

The RAID system includes a chassis, RAID controller, and disk trays only.

1.1.3.2 Hard Disk Drive (HDD) or Solid State Disk (SSD) for the RAID System

Hard disk drives or solid state disks come in different storage capacities and performance levels. All 2.5" hard drives or SSDs for the B08S2-PS should be the same size, speed, model, and firmware.

Accusys recommends 2.5" SAS and SATA Enterprise HDDs for the B08S2-PS systems.

1.1.3.3 ExaSAN QSFP Host Bus Adapter (ACS-63200NT)

The ExaSAN QSFP HBA (Figure 3) requires an available PCIe x4, x8, or x16 slot in your client system. Note that the PCIe slots on some motherboards are for graphics cards only. (Check your motherboard documentation or verify with the motherboard vendor for compatibility. Also note that some PCIe x4 or x8 slots only share or run at PCIe1.1 speed, so please be advised to consult your motherboard documentation to take advantage of ExaSAN speeds

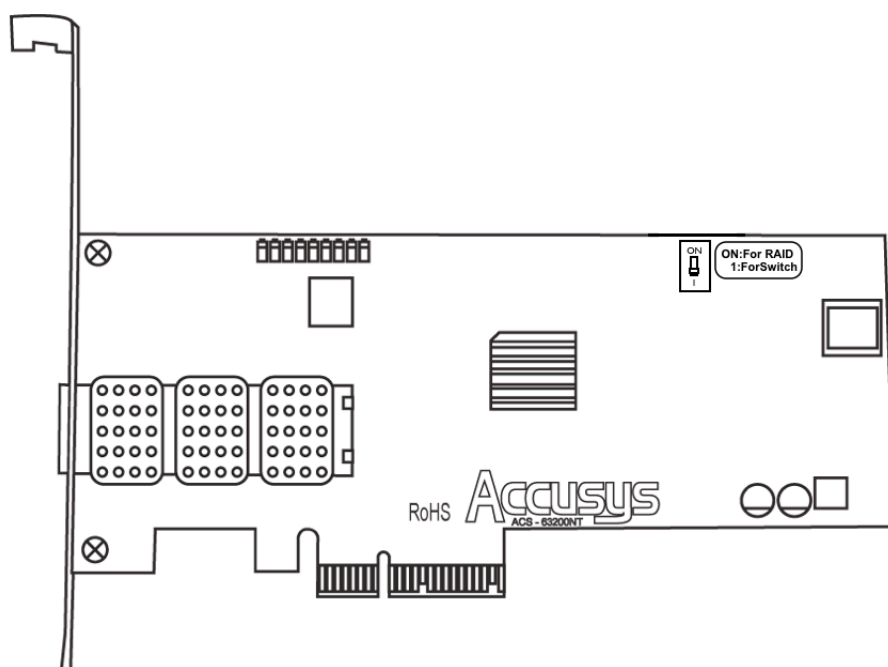


Figure 3: ACS-63200NT(Z1M) HBA card

1.1.3.4 QSFP (Quad Small Form-factor Pluggable) PCIe Copper or Optical Cables

A 2m QSFP Copper Cable is included in your B08S2-PS system package. It is used to connect the host system to the storage system.

Optional QSFP cables (Figure 4) are available at varying lengths in copper or optical

1. 2m QSFP Copper Cable, (black in color)
2. 5m QSFP Copper Cable, (black in color)
3. 10m QSFP Optical Cable, (orange in color)
4. 30m QSFP Optical Cable, (orange in color)
5. 50m QSFP Optical Cable, (orange in color)

6. 100m QSFP Optical Cable (orange in color)



Figure 4: QSFP optical cable

1.1.3.5 Power Cord

An AC Power Cord (Figure 5) is included in the B08S2-PS package. The power cord supports three models - AU, EU, or the US standard power cord. The option corresponds to the region the product is shipped to.

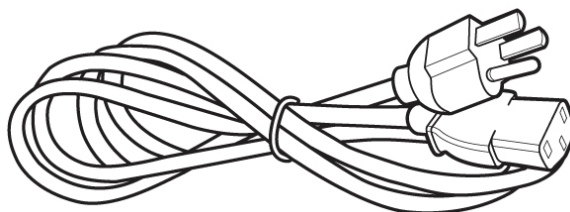


Figure 5: Power cord

1.1.4 Key Features

Below are the key features of the B08S2-PS. They are the reasons why ExaSAN is the best RAID solution for a power user, working on high end, on-location, on-set, or machine room work.

1. Host Interface

- PCIe2.0 5Gb/s x4 lanes, for transfers up to 20Gb/s

2. Disk Interface

- Supports 8 x 2.5" 6Gb SAS/SATA HDD(hard disks) or SSD (flash disks)

3. RAID Controller Specifications

- Hardware XOR/Multi-Parity engine
- 2GB DDRII-800 memory, ECC-protected, support up to 4GB

4. Software Specifications

- Multiple RAID levels: 0,1,5,6, 0+1, and JBOD
- Up to 4 independent disk arrays
- RAID capacity partitioning: up to 16 slices
- Support up to 64 LUNs
- Variable stripe sizes: 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256 (KB)

- Selective initialization method with background initialization
- Online RAID set expansion and level migration
- Controller and Disk Cache Control to optimize read/write performance
- Supports write-back and write-through caching
- Automatic drive insertion/removal detection and fast disk rebuilding
- Online bad block data recovery and reallocation
- Online disk scrubbing and data refresh and parity regeneration
- Disk health monitoring by S.M.A.R.T.
- NVRAM-based transaction log and auto parity resynchronization
- Array roaming and disk traveling with redundant on-disk metadata
- Array recovery to restore RAID configurations
- Dual firmware images for firmware recovery
- Disk Lag Proof technology to guarantee disk timely response
- Equalization mode to smooth the performance of sequential data transfers

5. Management

- Java-based GUI, cross-platform executable
- Enclosure components monitoring and control via GUI
- LED indicator for RAID & enclosure status
- Event logging to text file with event viewer
- Event notification by email (SMTP)
- Centralized multiple RAID system management
- Supports both in-band and out-of-band management
- Supports RAID management by EFI and BIOS
- Support firmware upgrade via GUI
- Support CLI (Command Line Interface)
- Support SNMP
- Support remote management

6. Enclosure

- FAN, Power, Temperature status LED indication in the front faceplate.
- Dimensions: 88mm(H) x 483mm(W) x 597mm(L)
- Weight: 3.2 Kg (w/o HDDs or SSDs); 7 pound (w/o HDDs or SSDs)

7. Supported OS

- Windows XP/2003/Vista/2008 and Windows 7(32/64-bit, Miniport and Storport driver, WHQL certified)
- Linux: Red Hat, SUSE, Fedora, CentOS, Debian, etc.
- MAC: OS X(10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8 and later)

8. Operating Conditions

- Humidity: 5% - 85%
- Operating Temperature: 0C – 40C

- Certification: RoHS, UL, CE, FCC, C-Tick, BSMI

9. QSFP HBA

- 20Gb/s PCIe2.0 x4 HBA
- Short, low profile, form factor card
- Dimension 110 x 68.9 mm
- Standard bracket (Standard) & low profile bracket (included)

10. QSFP Cable

- Connector PCI Express 2.0 x4
- Copper cable lengths: 2M(standard), 5M(optional)
- Optical cable lengths: 10M, 30M, 50M, 100M(all optical cables are optional)

1.2 Unpacking the System

Your ExaSAN B08S2-PS is shipped in special packaging (Figure 6) to provide protection during transportation, as well as to facilitate simple and safe removal from the carton(s). Note that different components may be shipped in separate cartons.

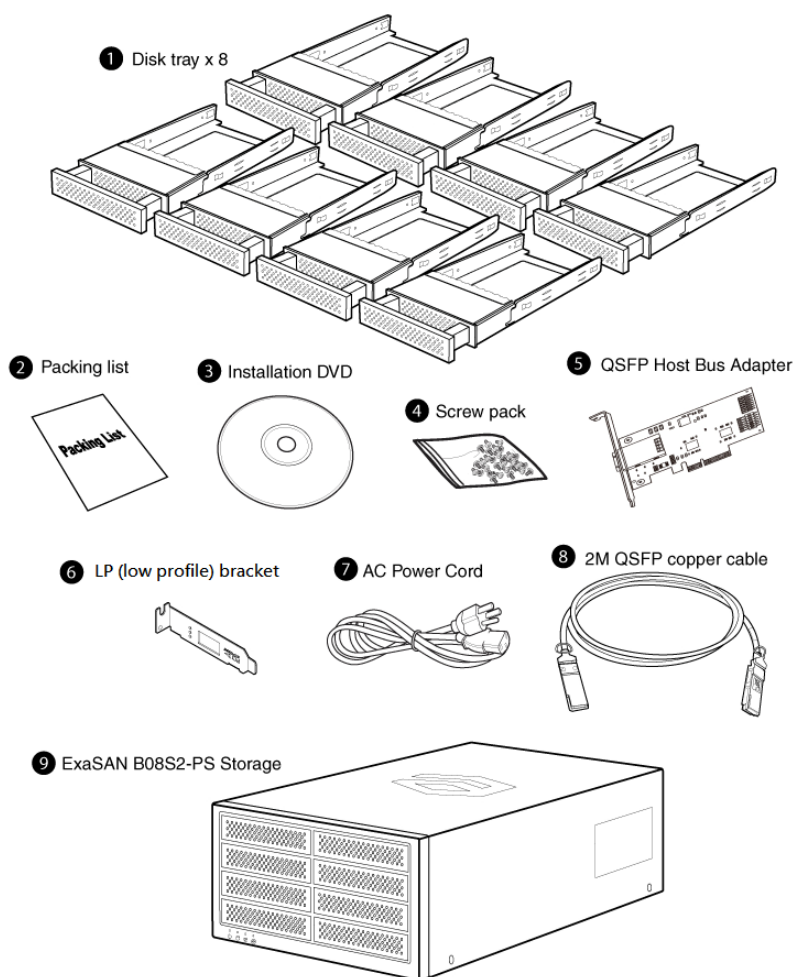


Figure 6: B08S2-PS packing list

1.2.1 What Is In Your Order

Your ExaSAN System Integrator/Value Added Reseller should have helped you assess, identify, and order all necessary system components and accessories, not included in the B08S2-PS packaging. If you ordered the complete B08S2-PS system solution, your order includes everything described in Section 1.3.

There are generic system components and accessories required by the ExaSAN solution but not included. Please refer to Section 1.5, “What Else You Need” for additional information.

1.2.2 Checking the Equipment you’ll need

Section 1.1.3 has a complete list of all the equipment you’ll need to set up the ExaSAN B08S2-PS. Check carefully against that list; verify that you have all of the system components and accessories before commencing hardware installation.

1.2.3 Unpacking

Follow the steps below to open the carton and remove the system from its packaging. .

1. Read Chapter 2, “Preparing to Install ExaSAN B08S2-PS.”
2. Remove any packing material on the outside of the carton.
3. Cut the tape at the top of the carton. If you use a long cutting instrument, exercise care to avoid damaging the content inside.
4. Open up the top flaps of the carton to reveal the content inside. Remove the protective foam on top of the system. Carefully remove each item from inside the carton.

1.3 What’s in the Box

Carefully check your carton contents against the included packing list, or the inside flap of the box, and your original purchase order. You should have the items as described in the sections below.

Contact your Accusys System Integrator/Value Added Reseller or Accusys Customer Service (see Appendix C “Customer Service and Technical Support” for more information) to report any missing item.

1.3.1 B08S2-PS System

Your ExaSAN RAID disk system carton contains the following items:

1. PCIe 2.0 RAID disk system - B08S2-PS (x1)
2. Accessories package (x1)
3. Disk tray package (x1)

1.3.2 B08S2-PS Accessories

The Accessories package includes the following items. These items can also be ordered and shipped separately from Accusys.

1. QSFP Host Bus Adapter (x1)
2. 2M QSFP copper cable (x1)
3. AC power cord (x1)
4. Installation DVD (x1)
5. Packing list (x1)
6. LP (Low profile) bracket (x1)
7. Screw pack (x1)

1.3.3 B08S2-PS Disk Tray package

The Disk Tray package is divided into two layers. Each layer holds 4 disk trays, with a total of 8 disk trays.

1.4 Your B08S2-PS at a Glance

This section helps you get familiar with the physical appearance of your ExaSAN B08S2-PS.

1.4.1 ExaSAN B08S2-PS

1.4.1.1 B08S2-PS Front Panel & LED Indicators

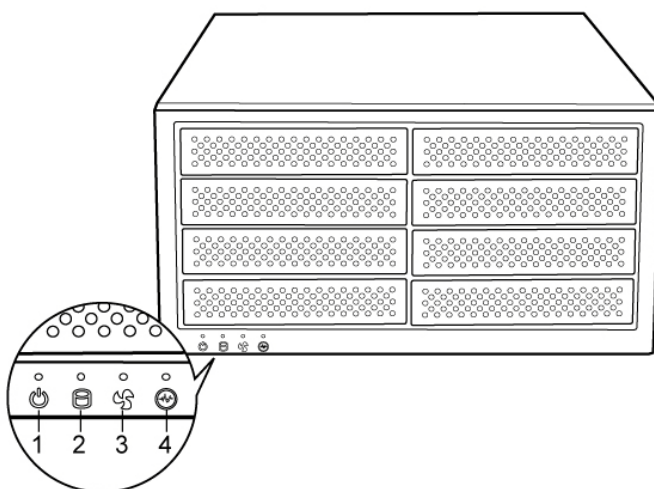


Figure 7: B08S2-PS front view

LED	Name	Color	Description
1	System Power	Blue	Flashing Blue indicates the host is booting. Steady Blue indicates the subsystem power supplies are working normally. No Light indicates the power is off
2	Access Status	Blue	Flashing Blue indicates the host is accessing. No Light indicates standby or no power
3	System Fan	Blue/Red	Steady Blue indicates the fan module is working normally. Steady Red indicates the fan module has

			failed. No Light indicates the LED failed or power off
4	Heartbeat LED	Blue	Indicates the controller status • Flashing Blue indicates the controller is active • No light indicates the controller is inactive.

1.4.1.2 Beeper Codes

Controller Status	Beeper mode
Turn on the Controller	Two short beeps
System Panic	Long beep
Controller Work Status, ex: Disk init, disk rebuild, disk expansion, disk migration, disk snapshot, etc.	Regularly repeating one short beep
System Problem, ex: Fan issue, Power issue, RAID error, etc.	Regularly repeating one long beep and two short beeps
Create array successfully	One short beep
Memory test error	Regularly repeating three rapid short beeps

1.4.1.3 Disk Mapping

Disk 1	Disk 5
Disk 2	Disk 6
Disk 3	Disk 7
Disk 4	Disk 8

1.4.1.4 Disk Tray and LED Indicators

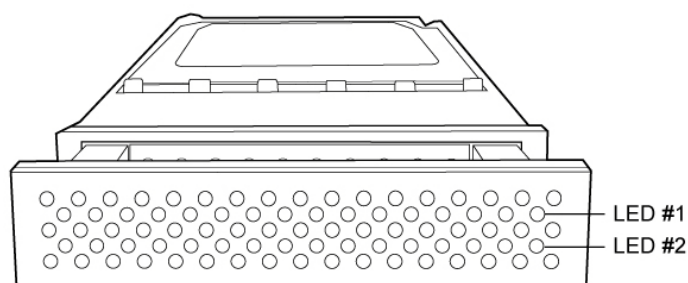


Figure 8: B08S2-PS tray front view

Disk Status	LED #1 (Access LED)	LED #2 (Power/Failure/Status LED)
Disk Online		Steady Green
Disk Fail		Steady Red
No Disk		Steady Red
Disk Lock		Steady Green
Disk Access	Flashing Blue	Steady Green
Disk Initialization	Flashing Blue	Steady Green
Disk Rebuild	Flashing Blue	Rebuild Drives: Steady Red Original Drives: Steady Green
Disk Expansion	Flashing Blue	Extend Drives: Steady Red Original Drives: Steady Green
Disk Migration	Flashing Blue	Migrating Drives > Original Drives • Migrating Drives: Steady Green • Original Drives: Steady Green Migrating Drives < Original Drives • Migrating Drives: Steady Red • Original Drives: Steady Green Migrating Drives = Original Drives • Migrating Drives: Steady Green • Original Drives: Steady Green
Disk of Health	Flashing Blue	Steady Green

Center Action		
---------------	--	--

Note:

- If access LED has no light, it means no access or the LED has a problem.
- The lower LED (power/failure/status) always lights after power on. If users don't see the light, it means no power or the LED has failed.

1.4.1.5 B08S2-PS Rear Panel

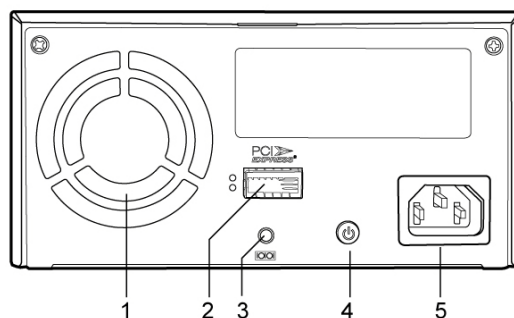


Figure 9: B08S2-PS back view

No.	Name	Description
1	Cooling fan	Maintains the disk array away from overheating.
2	PCIe port	Connects the controller to the HBA on the host server. Host access LED (top): Flashing Blue indicates host accessing is in progress. No light indicates no host accessing. Host connected LED (bottom): Flashing Green indicates the controller is connected normally. No light indicates the controller connected abnormal.
3	Terminal port	Connects to diagnostic equipment. (For engineering only)
4	Power button	Control the power to the RAID system - Push the button to power on the RAID system - Push the button for 5 seconds to shut down the power of the RAID system manually.
5	Power Supply AC In	Connects to a power source with a power

		cord.
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1.4.2 ExaSAN QSFP Host Bus Adapter (HBA) and LED Indicators

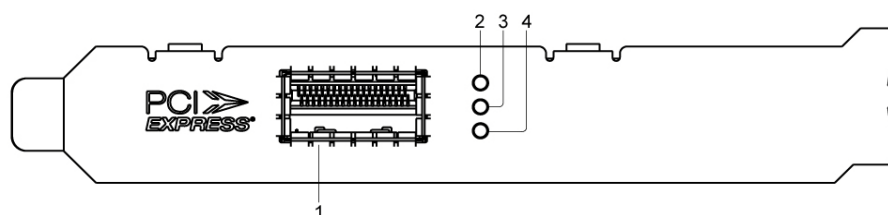
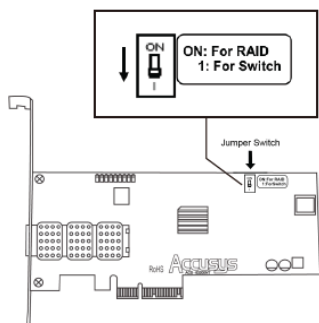


Figure 10: HBA LED indicators

No.	Name	Description
1	QSFP Connector Port	For connection with one of the Host Module Ports on the switch rear panel or B08S2-PS directly.
2	Jumper Switch LED Indicator	Off (no light at all) indicates the jumper pin in question is set to “On” position. In this state, the card is ready for DAS direct connection with the ExaSAN B08S2-PS. Solid amber indicates the jumper pin in question is set to “1” position. In this state, the HBA card is ready for a SAN connection. See Section 3.1.2, “Installing the HBA Card,” for additional information. 
3	Link LED Indicator	Solid green indicates connected PCIe 2.0 link; Flashing green indicates connected PCIe 1.0 link or downgraded speed.

		• Off (no light) when there is no link or indicates a link with trouble.
4	Access LED Indicator	Flashing blue while there are data access activities with the connected device. No light indicates the host is not accessing

1.5 What Else You Need

When you purchased your ExaSAN system, additional hardware, software, and accessories may be required to fully take advantage of this system. The following describes the software and hardware which you may need to purchase separately. If you still have questions, please consult with your ExaSAN reseller for more details.

1.5.1 DAS environment

DAS is the acronym for Direct Attached Storage (to the client workstation or server) The B08S2-PS is directly attached to the HBA installed into the client workstation or server shown in Figure 11.



Figure 11: B08S2-PS DAS environment

1.5.1.1 Hardware

1. **2.5" SAS/SATA HDD (hard drive) or 2.5" SSD (flash drive)** : B08S2-PS supports both SAS and SATA interface HDD/SSD drives. Recommend using Enterprise level of the same model, size, and firmware. The B08S2-PS HDD compatibility list is here: <http://www.accusys.com.tw/B08S2/B08S2/download.html>
2. **Host system computer**: When connecting B08S2-PS, you will need a host workstation or server with an available PCIe2.0 x4 (or larger) slot to install the ExaSAN HBA. Please confirm manufacturers specifications for PCIe2.0 support to get 20Gb/s transfers from the B08S2-PS.

Note

Accusys cannot guarantee ExaSAN product compatibility with all workstations and motherboards on the market, so please check with your supplier to get maximum performance from ExaSAN storage

3. **Other Interface Converters** : ExaSAN HBAs generally work with all PCIexpress buss slots with 4 lanes or more, but are not guaranteed to work as there are too many manufacturers to test. Please work with the ExaSAN channel partner for assistance and recommendations, for example with Thunderbolt expansion boxes or similar.
4. **Dual port HBA** : If your project requires higher storage performance to work on, you may need to stripe two units of B08S2-PS through operation system's software to create a bigger and faster storage device. Accusys provide dual port HBA card to meet your needs, you can contact local ExaSAN resellers to purchase dual port HBA card.

Note:

Accusys Dual port HBA card has three models :

- 1.) Z2D Dual port HBA card : Two ports are capable to connect two units of B08S2-PS. This model is shipped now.
- 2.) Z2M Dual port HBA card : One of the two PCIe2.0 port allows host workstation connecting B08S2-PS, another PCIe2.0 port is for connecting ExaSAN SAN switch. (Z2M is in developing status, the estimated shipping time is Q1, 2013)
- 3.) Z2S Dual port HBA card : Two ports for connecting ExaSAN SAN switch. (Z2M is in developing status, the estimated shipping time is Q2, 2013)

1.5.1.2 Software

In most cases, you do not need to install any third party software to manage your working. All B08S2-PS required Firmware/ Driver/ BIOS/ GUI are included in the DVD ROM inside B08S2-PS package. Also, you can download from Accusys official website's support page (http://www.accusys.com.tw/support/download_new.htm).

1.5.2 SAN environment

The main aspect of SAN (Storage-Area-Network) is to connect Raid storage through SAN switch. And through the switch access the entire host connected inside the network. The main difference between DAS and SAN is the existence of a switch. Please kindly see the below diagram for more detail.

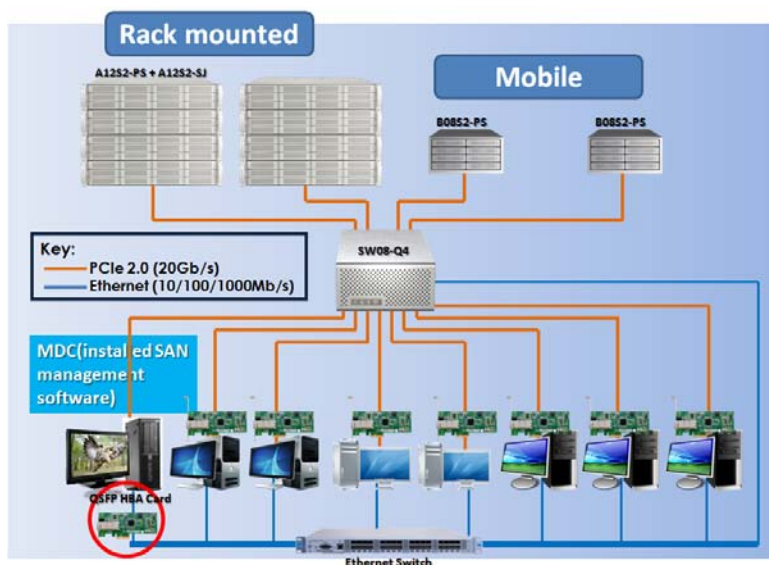


Figure 12: B08S2-PS SAN environment

1.5.2.1 Hardware

1. **2.5”SAS/SATA HDD (hard drive) or 2.5”SSD(flash drive)** : B08S2-PS supports both SAS and SATA interface Enterprise level HDD/SSD drives. The B08S2-PS HDD compatibility list is here: (<http://www.accusys.com.tw/B08S2/B08S2/download.html>)
2. MDC (Meta Data Controller) computer system is designated as an administrator for the SAN. It keeps track of all the metadata for file read and write requests for the SAN from the clients. It is highly recommended that the MDC run on a standalone workstation so that block level transfers on the SAN are not impacted by the MDC performance.

CRITICAL CAUTION:

The MDC is very important in the SAN. If the MDC fails, then Metadata stored in the MDC is lost or damaged, the data stored in the SAN will no longer be accessible. We strongly recommend a reliable standalone computer system to run as MDC.

3. Client workstation computers: The HP Z series workstations and Apple MacPro workstations are popular client systems
4. ExaSAN switch : SW08-Q4 for up to 8 clients and SW16/SWF16 for up to 12 clients.
5. Ethernet switch and cables : Required for the MDC to keep track of all file metadata for the SAN. As it is critical to the performance of the SAN, select reliable Ethernet switch and cables well protected by manufacturers' warranty to assure the safety and stability of the SAN network. And absolutely no wireless switching should be associated with the MDC managing ExaSAN.

1.5.2.2 Software

In most cases, the only third party software you may need to install when using B08S2-PS RAID system is SAN management software. All B08S2-PS required Firmware/ Driver/ BIOS/ GUI are included in the DVD ROM inside B08S2-PS package. Also, you can download it from the website (http://www.accusys.com.tw/support/download_new.htm). The folder path is \Download&Upload\Download\ExaSAN\For SAN. (Open For SAN folder, you will need the model number of the switch to find the correct Installer package/ Driver, rather than B08S2-PS.)

If you need Firmware/ BIOS for DAS B08S2-PS, the download path is \Download&Upload\Download\ExaSAN\For DAS\B08S2-PS)

1. SAN management software :
 - The key function of SAN management software is controlling read /write access between the multiple clients to one shared storage pool. We support SAN management software such as StorNext, MetaSAN, XSAN, BWFS or SANit.
 - The system requirement and installation method for SAN software are addressed on manufacturers' user manual. In general, SAN software is installed on one fixed host, which is tagged as MDC.
 - Certain SAN management software allows users to install two MDCs to support MDC redundancy. And there are other SAN management software that do not require a dedicated MDC.

Note:

Accusys offers a new SAN switch that combine both MDC and SAN software, and

switch ports in one switch called SWF16. Accusys SAN software is called SANit.

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For more information on how SWF16 can help you, contact your reseller or please visit: <http://www.accusys.com.tw/SWF16/SWF16/Overview.html>

2. Preparing to Install ExaSAN B08S2-PS

2. Preparing to Install ExaSAN B08S2-PS

To ensure safe and smooth operation of your ExaSAN B08S2-PS, it is essential that you choose an appropriate location for the system, provide an appropriate operating environment, and adequate power for all components of the system. As you plan for installation, follow the guidelines below to ensure that the system and its environment are safely and appropriately positioned for efficient operation and service.

2.1 Precaution for Handling the System

Take the following precautions to avoid damage to the system or potential injury to you.

1. Prepare a flat, sturdy surface before removing the system from its packaging. The table or cart that will hold the system should be as close as possible to the system carton.
2. Ensure that all power switches have been turned off and all power cords disconnected to prevent personal injury and damage to the hardware.
3. Static electricity can damage electronic components of your system. Follow the guidelines below to avoid such damage:
 - a. Work in a static-free environment
 - b. Wear a grounded anti-static wrist strap
 - c. Store uninstalled components in anti-static bags
 - d. Handle circuit boards by their edges and avoid touching chips and connectors

2.2 Choosing the Location for the System

The ExaSAN B08S2-PS is designed as a small form factor or desktop solution. Depending on where your desk or other install location is, you should keep the following points in mind when determining where to place your system.

1. Measure the amount of available space on your desk. The amount of space required for the B08S2-PS is 265mm(length) x 175mm(width) x 87mm(high)
2. Measure the distance between any two components that need to be connected via cable(s). This measurement will help you determine the length of the required cable(s). Or if you've already purchased the cables, determine the proximity of the components in question.
3. Leave sufficient room, at least two inches, around the unit to allow air ventilation.
4. Do not block or cover any of the ventilation holes in the front and back panels of the unit. Consistent airflow is essential to keeping the system operating efficiently.
5. Allow additional room at the front and back of the unit for service.
6. The ExaSAN B08S2-PS uses several cables and cords. It's a good idea to determine how they will be arranged at the rear of the system, and where the cables will be routed to connect to the host systems and RAID disk systems.

2.3 Electrical Power

At your chosen location for the ExaSAN B08S2-PS, make sure that the electrical circuitry and power outlets are sufficient for the combined power needs of all hardware components. To plan for safe and adequate power to the system, follow these guidelines:

1. Check the documentation for all hardware components at the chosen location to determine their power requirements. Then make sure that the available power supply for that location is sufficient for the planned components.
2. When possible use surge protectors or power conditions as part of the installation.
3. When planning for electrical power, make sure you have more power than the total power requirements specified for all components. Also make certain that the power load is distributed evenly among circuits to that location. Consult an electrician or other expert if you need assistance with planning for the power needs for your components.

4. Make sure that the power outlets for all hardware components are grounded according to local and national standards. Consult an electrician if you need assistance with grounding.

2.4 Operating Environment

The operating environment for the ExaSAN B08S2-PS must meet certain requirements:

1. Verify that the temperature range of the chosen location is within the limits established for the system and all other components.
2. Make certain that the chosen location has adequate ventilation to maintain the necessary temperature range.
3. If there are multiple hardware components installed at the chosen location, consider additional cooling measures to assure efficient operation of the system and other components.
4. Environment parameters:
 - a. Operating temperature: 0°C to 40°C (32°F to 104°F)
 - b. Non-operating temperature: -40°C to 70°C (-40°F to 158°F)
 - c. Operating humidity: 5-85%, non-condensing
 - d. Storage humidity: 0-95%, non-condensing

2.5 Security

To ensure the security of the ExaSAN B08S2-PS, make certain that the chosen location meets your security requirements.

3. Installing the ExaSAN B08S2-PS

3. Installing the ExaSAN B08S2-PS

Follow the steps in this chapter to prepare your ExaSAN B08S2-PS system for installation.

3.1 Installing the System

Follow the instructions in this section to hook up all your hardware components of the ExaSAN B08S2-PS system. Do not turn the power of any individual component on until instructed. When all components are properly connected, follow the instructions in section 3.3.1 “Powering On” to turn the components on in the prescribed order.

3.1.1 Installing Disk Drives

Follow the steps below to install your HDDs. .

1. With the connectors facing outward, insert the HDD into the disk tray. (PCBA on the bottom)
2. Slide the HDD outward until the connectors align with the edge of the disk tray.
3. Secure the HDD to the disk tray with four screws from the bottom.

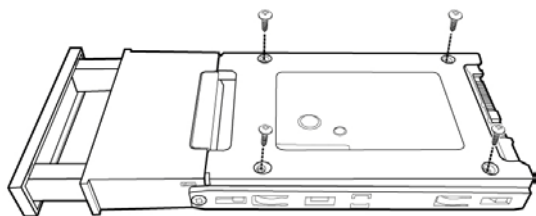


Figure 13: Mounting screws on tray

4. Slide the disk tray into the disk bays on the front of the chassis.

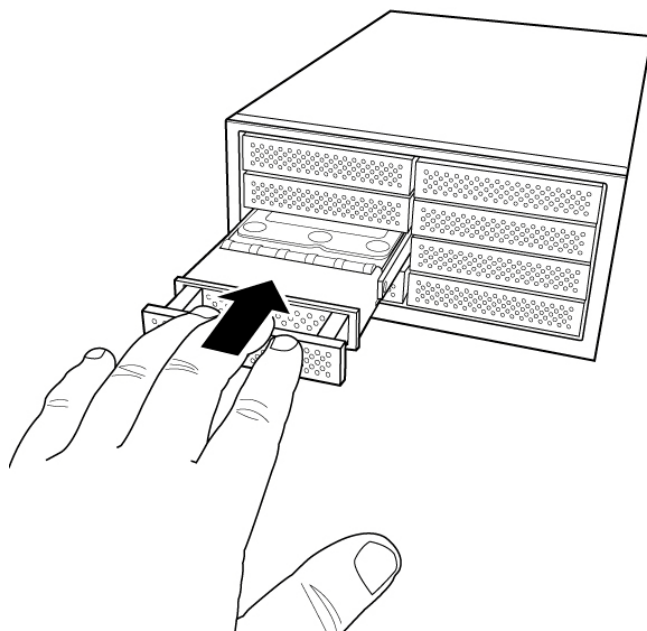


Figure 14: Insert tray into B08S2-PS

5. Push the tray inward until the tray firmly connects and you hear the tray click into place.

6. Repeat for all drives to be installed into the B08S2-PS.

Note

The hard drives in a RAID system should match in size and speed. All drives in an array should be identical models with the same firmware version.

3.1.2 Installing the HBA Card

Before the ExaSAN B08S2-PS is ready to be connected and powered on, you must install the HBA card in the workgroup client system. The HBA card is compatible with PCIe x4, x8, and x16 slots. If a choice is given, use the fastest PCIe slot available. Although the HBA card is compatible with both PCIe 1.1 and 2.0 standards, only the latter is recommended for best performance.

Caution

PCIe slots on some motherboards are for graphics cards only. Check with the motherboard vendor for compatibility.

Follow these steps to install the card in each host system:

1. Make sure that the client system is turned off.
2. Open the client system's outer casing cover, check with your vendor documentation for instructions if necessary.
3. Re-position the HBA card so that you are facing jumper switch as shown below. You can use the jumper switch to configure the HBA for DAS or SAN usage. Set the jumper switch before installing into the host
 - DAS mode: When the switch is in the "On" up position, the HBA card is enabled for RAID (Direct-Attached Storage B08S2-PS) mode.
 - SAN mode: In the "1" down position, the HBA is enabled for switch (SAN) mode.

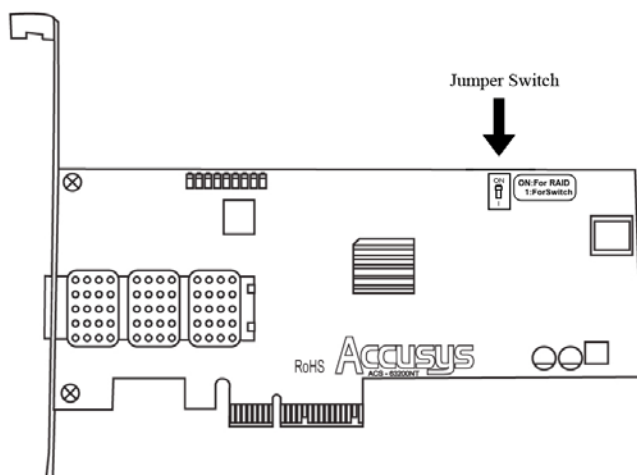


Figure 15: HBA card's jumper switch

4. Locate the available PCIe slot; remove the blank plate if one is present, save the screw for later use.

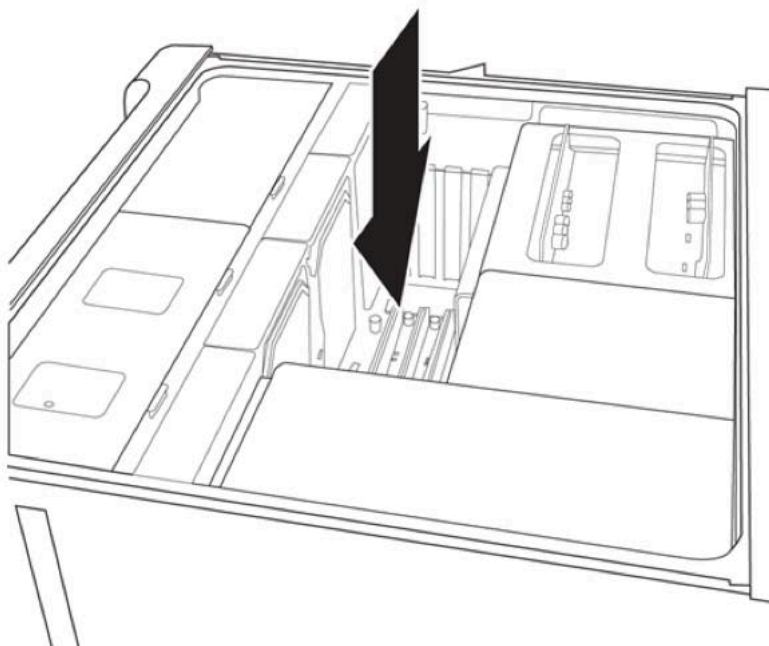


Figure 16: Install HBA card

5. Position the connector of the card over the slot, insert the connector into the slot, press gently but firmly until it is securely seated.

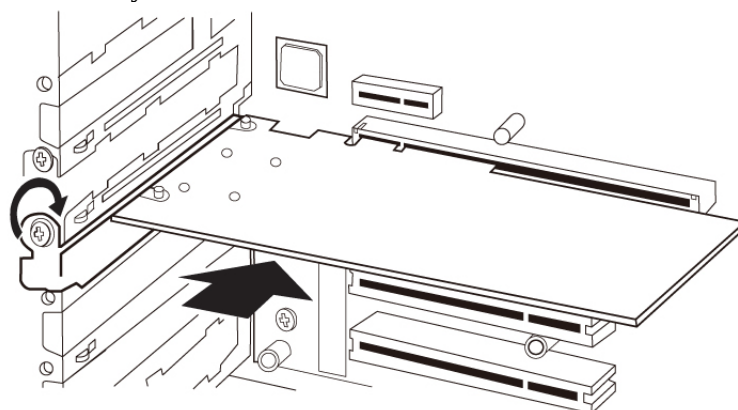


Figure 17: Install HBA card on a PCIe slot

6. Use the screw that you saved in step 2 to secure the metal bracket of the card to the system case.
7. Replace the outer casing cover.

3.1.3 Connecting the HBA to the B08S2-PS System for DAS

1. Connect the HBA to the ExaSAN B08S2-PS with a QSFP PCIe cable. Insert one end of the QSFP cable into the host port on the rear panel of B08S2-PS. Your cable connector is securely plugged when you hear a click. If you need to unplug the cable, pull the ring on the connector firmly until it is detached from the port. Note that the QSFP used in the photo illustration below is a QSFP optical cable. If the distance between the switch and the host system is less than 2 meters in your case, the included QSFP copper cable will suffice.

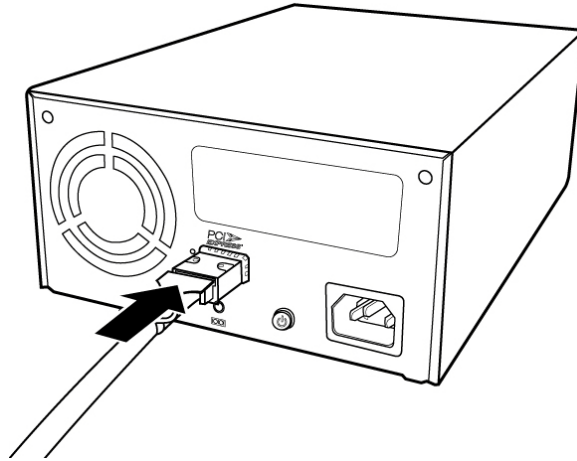


Figure 18: Connecting PCIe cable to B08S2-PS

2. Insert the other end of the cable into the QSFP port on the HBA card in the host system. The cable connector is securely plugged when you hear a click.

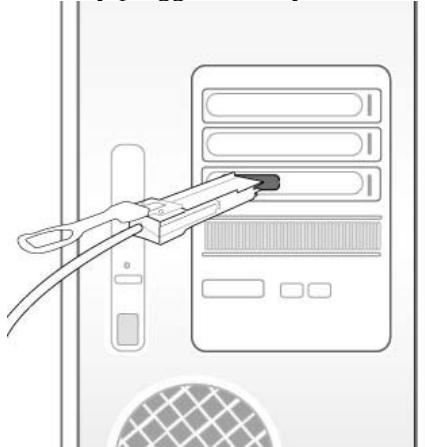


Figure 19: Connecting PCIe cable to a host

3. Plug a power cord into the AC power-in port in the storage system; do not turn power on yet.

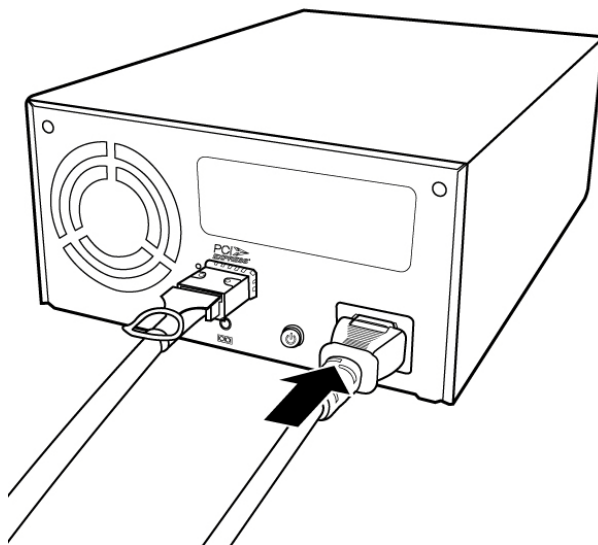


Figure 20: Connecting the power cord to B08S2-PS

Caution

Once powered on, Do **NOT** remove the QSFP PCIe cable when in use to avoid data loss and corruption.

3.2 Powering the System On and Off

3.2.1 Powering On

Before powering on, make sure that all cables and cords are properly installed and connected.

1. If you have not yet done so, plug the power cords for ExaSAN B08S2-PS Storage System to a power source.
2. Turn power on for the ExaSAN B08S2-PS by switching on the Power button. Wait for the “Heartbeat LED indicator” (refer to Section 1.4.1.1, “B08S2-PS Front Panel”) to turn into a steady blue state. Note that you might hear a few short beeps generated from the RAID disk system during this process. If interested, go to Sec 1.4.1.2 for beeper codes.
3. Turn on the host workstation/server.

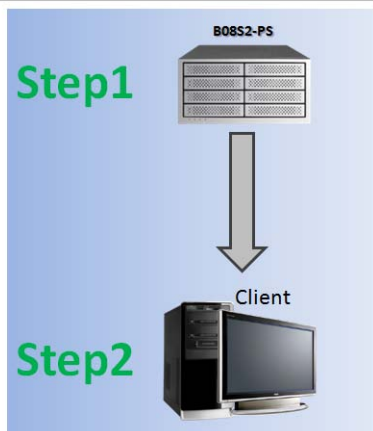
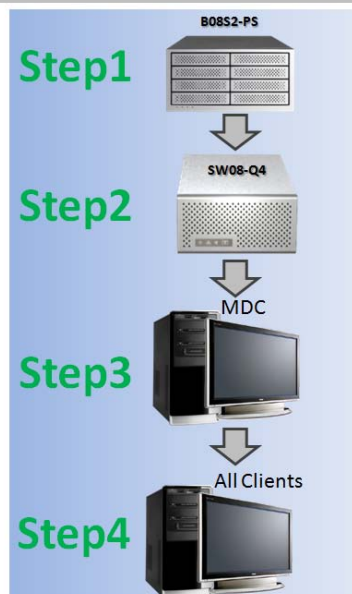
DAS - **Power on** sequenceSAN - **Power on** sequence

Figure 21: power on sequence

Caution

It is important to follow the correct Power On sequence. Failure to do so may result in some features not functioning properly.

3.2.2 Powering Off

If you need to power off the entire system, such as in the cases of switch or RAID system firmware updates, adding a RAID system or client computer, power off in the reverse order of Powering On. Before turning off the B08S2-PS Storage System, turn off the host server first. During RAID initiation or disk drive rebuilding, you can turn off the host server and leave the B08S2-PS powered on.

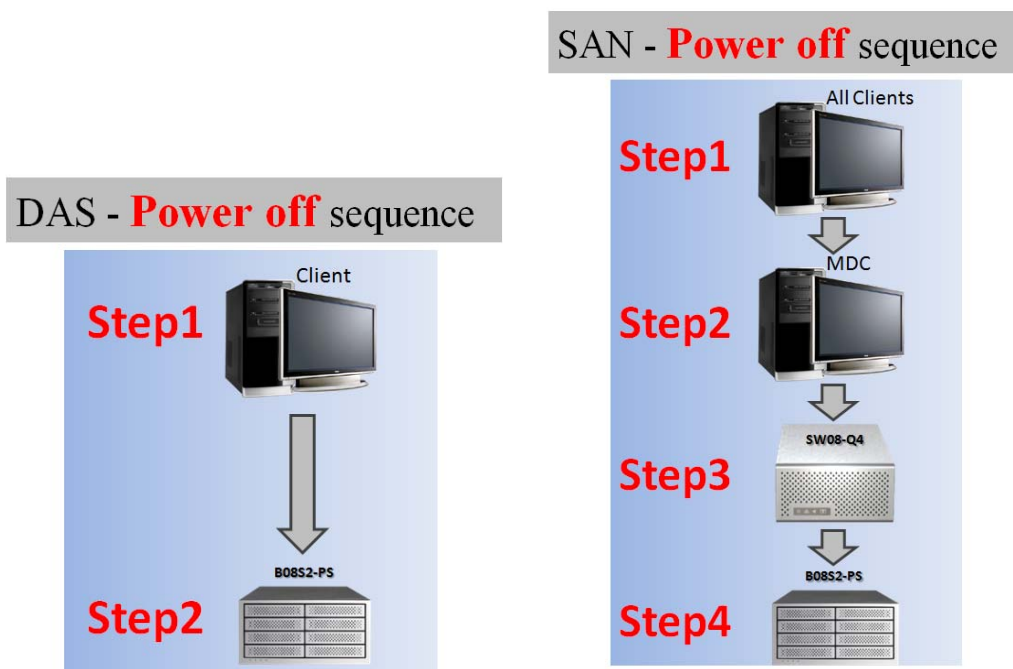


Figure 22: power off sequence

3.3 ExaSAN GUI RAIDGuard X Overview

RAIDGuard X is a powerful tool which supports remote monitoring of multiple controllers that are connected to the same network.

The software comes with 2 components: Server and Client.

Server – Enables the server to recognize the RAID controller(s).

Client – The Client software can be installed on any computer that needs to administer the controller(s).

The Client software works on any computer running JAVA 1.6 or above and is used to administer the RAID controller(s). It contains all the functionality needed to configure and administer RAID arrays. Use the software to:

- Add and delete arrays
- Fix problems with disks
- Manage the arrays and disks
- Set audio and e-mail alerts
- Monitor the status of multiple controllers

3.3.1 RAIDGuard X Key Features

RAIDGuard X is designed to be used in conjunction with Accusys ExaSAN systems.

- Supports multiple Accusys RAID system per host
- Java Based Graphical User Interface (GUI)
- Multi-platform and operating system support
- Remote monitoring
- Event notification
- Snapshot function

RAIDGuard X Client GUI

The RAIDGuard X GUI enables easy monitoring of the status of a RAID.

Event Notification

Email event notification keeps the administrator informed of the status of the RAID controller.

Remote Monitoring

The RAIDGuard X Client must be installed on a Java-based computer in order to remotely view the details of the RAID controller.

3.3.2 Installation prerequisites

RAIDGuard X is designed to be used in conjunction with Accusys ExaSAN systems. Users require the following:

Hardware requirements

- Host server with CD-ROM drive and host bus adapter (installed)

Software requirements

- Supported operating system (O.S.)
Windows: XP, Win7, 2000, 2003, 2008
MAC: 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8 or later
Linux: Kernel version 2.4 or later
- Java-based application environment

3.3.3 Before You Start

Before RAIDGuard X can be installed on Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms, make sure you have completed the following:

- Install hard disk drives into the chassis. Please refer to Section 3.1.1, “Installing Disk Drives”.
- Install the RAID host bus adapter card to your host server. Please refer to Section 3.1.2, “Installing HBA Card”.
- Connect the QSFP cable between the B08S2-PS and the host server. Please refer to Section 3.1.3, “Connecting the HBA to the B08S2-PS System”.
- Power on the B08S2-PS and the host server in the correct sequence. Please refer to Section 3.2.1, “Powering On”.

3.3.4 Installing the driver and RAIDGuard X

The RAIDGuard X GUI can be downloaded from the Accusys website. Go to the website support page (http://www.accusys.com.tw/support/download_new.htm) for available downloads. If you need more info or tech support, please contact your system integrator of ExaSAN product or Accusys FAE Dept. (see Appendix C “Customer Service and Technical Support” for more information)

3.3.4.1 Installing RAIDGuard X on MAC and Windows

RAIDGuard X Installation

1. Insert the CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive of the MAC or PC.
2. For Macs, execute “CD-ROM/MAC Installation/Vx.x/6xxxx_IP_MAC_x_x_x.mpkg”.
For PCs, execute “CD-ROM/Windows installation/GUI/x.x/6xxx_IP_Win_x.x.exe”.

Note

If you cannot find the installation DVD or you want to install the latest version of software, please go to Accusys official web site.
(http://www.accusys.com.tw/support/download_new.htm)

3. Follow the onscreen instructions. Sample screens shown below are from a MAC installation.

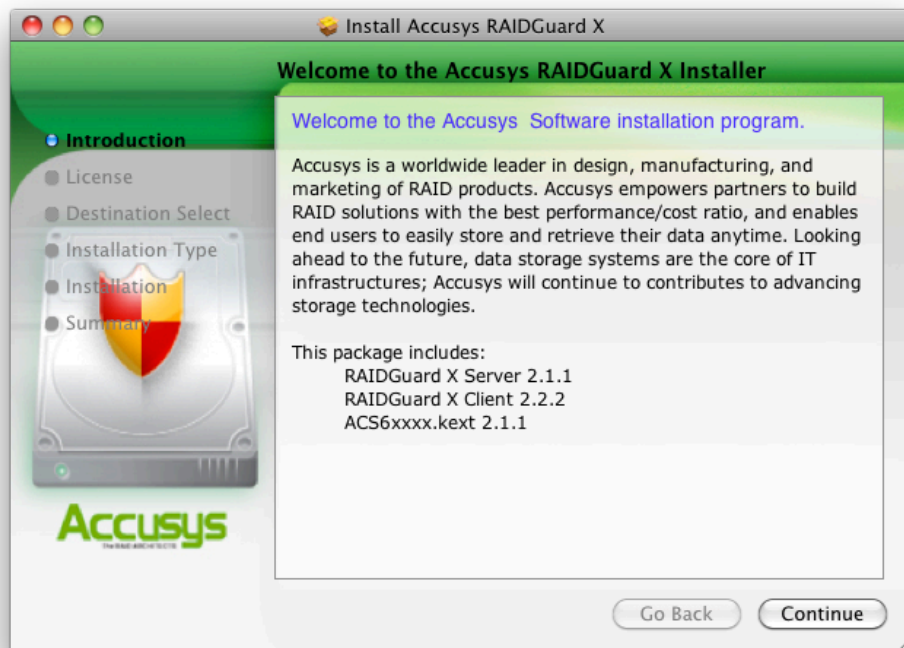


Figure 23: GUI welcome page

4. Accept the License Agreement and click **Continue**.

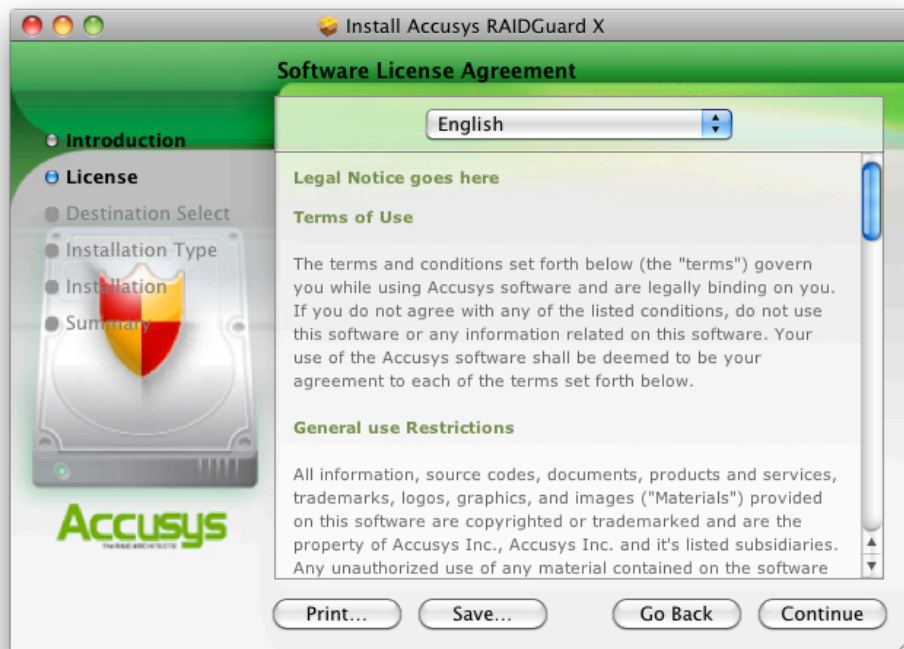


Figure 24: GUI license page

5. Select the Destination volume to install RAIDGuard X.

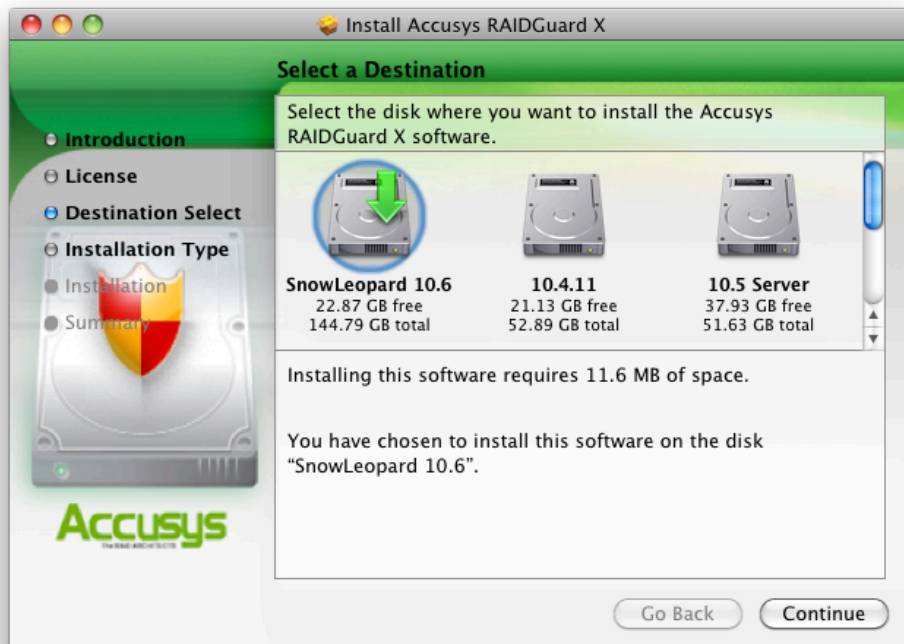


Figure 25: GUI destination select page

- Click **Install** to continue with the Standard installation, which will automatically install the Driver, the RAIDGuard X Server, and the RAIDGuard X Client. Click **Customize** to manually select the content to install.

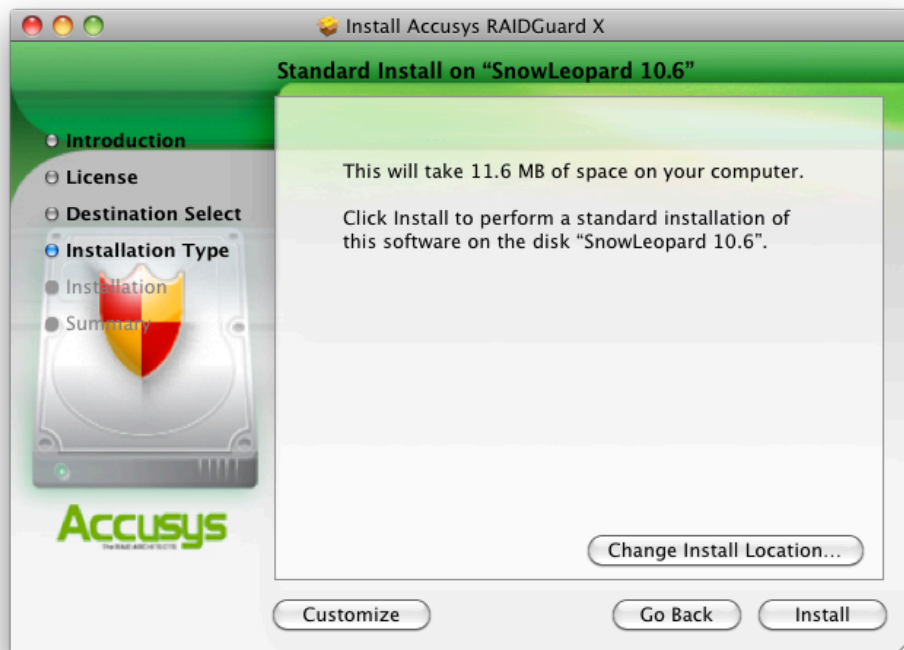


Figure 26: GUI installation type page

- Click to **Restart** the computer.



Figure 27: GUI installation successful page

Note

Storport and miniport are new storage drivers created by Microsoft for Windows Server 2003 and future Windows operating systems.

3.3.4.2 Installing ExaSAN RAID system driver on Linux**Driver Installation**

1. Copy the ExaSAN RAID system driver files onto your GUI desktop. Open a terminal window.
2. Type the following commands:

```
# cd 'root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid'
```

```
# make
```

Example:

```
[root@localhost Accusys_LinuxRaid]# make
make -C /lib/modules/2.6.18-238.el5/build M=/root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid
make[1]: Entering directory `/usr/src/kernels/2.6.18-238.el5-i686'
LD      /root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/built-in.o
CC [M]  /root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/acs_ame.o
In file included from /root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/AME_module.c:11,
                 from /root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/acs_ame.c:38:
/root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/AME_module.h:188:28: warning: "/" within comment
In file included from /root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/AME_module.c:11,
                 from /root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/acs_ame.c:38:
/root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/AME_module.h:223: warning: 'packed' attribute ignored
/root/Desktop/Accusys_LinuxRaid/AME_module.h:231: warning: 'packed' attribute ignored
```

The Linux compiler should now begin compiling the driver.

```
# ls
```

Example:

```
[root@localhost Accusys_LinuxRaid]# ls
acs_ame.c      acs_ame.mod.o  AME_module.h  Makefile.kernel2.4_x86_64
acs_ame.h      acs_ame.o      built-in.o     Module.markers
acs_ame.ko     ame.h          Makefile       Module.symvers
acs_ame.mod.c  AME_module.c  Makefile.kernel2.4
```

Verify that acs_ame.ko has been compiled. If so, please type the following command

```
# insmod acs_ame.ko
```

```
# lsmod
```

Example:

```
[root@localhost Accusys_LinuxRaid]# lsmod
Module                Size  Used by
acs_ame                21376  0
1915                  24257  1
drm                   65365  2 1915
autofs4               29253  3
hidp                  23105  2
rfcomm                42585  0
l2cap                 29633  10 hidp,rfcomm
bluetooth             53797  5 hidp,rfcomm,l2cap
lockd                 63337  0
sunrpc               146685  2 lockd
cpufreq_ondemand     12493  4
acpi_cpufreq         13641  0
mperf                 6337  1 acpi_cpufreq
be2iscsi              59093  0
ib_iser               35609  0
rdma_cm              35705  1 ib_iser
ib_cm                 39213  1 rdma_cm
```

The driver should be now loaded in Linux.

RAIDGuardX Installation

Before installing RAIDGuard X, make sure the RAID HBA drivers is already installed in your Linux OS.

1. Insert the CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive of the server or PC.
2. Open CD ROM/GUI/Server/Linux/AP/i386 or x86_64/AP_Accusys. Open a terminal window on the folder and enter the following commands:

```
# cat /proc/devices
```

Example:

```
[root@localhost SourceCode]# insmod ./acs_ame.ko
[root@localhost SourceCode]# cd /
[root@localhost /]# cat /proc/devices
Character devices:
1 mem
4 /dev/vc/0
4 tty
4 ttyS
5 /dev/tty
5 /dev/console
5 /dev/ptmx
6 lp
7 vcs
10 misc
13 input
21 sg
29 fb
128 ptm
136 pts
162 raw
180 usb
189 usb_device
216 rfcomm
252 ACS_CDEV
253 ACS_CDEV
254 pcmcia
Block devices:
1 ramdisk
2 fd
3 ide0
8 sd
9 md
65 sd
66 sd
67 sd
68 sd
```

Check the “ACS_CDEV” device number. For example, if the “ACS_CDEV” device number is “\$\$\$”.

```
# mknod /dev/ACS_CDEV0 c $$$ 0
```

Example:

```
[root@localhost ~]# cd /
[root@localhost /]# cd root
[root@localhost ~]# cd Desktop/
[root@localhost Desktop]# cd 6xxxx_DR_Linux_1.9.5/
[root@localhost 6xxxx_DR_Linux_1.9.5]# cd SourceCode/
[root@localhost SourceCode]# ls
acs_ame.c      acs_ame.mod.c  built-in.o      Module.markers
acs_ame.h      acs_ame.mod.o  Makefile        Module.symvers
acs_ame.h.bak  acs_ame.o      Makefile.kernel2.4  rescscan-scsi-bus.sh
acs_ame.ko     ame.h          Makefile.kernel2.4_x86_64
[root@localhost SourceCode]# insmod ./acs_ame.ko
[root@localhost SourceCode]# mknod /dev/ACS_CDEV0 c 252 0
[root@localhost SourceCode]# mknod /dev/ACS_CDEV1 c 253 0
[root@localhost SourceCode]#
```

```
# cd /root/
```

```
# unzip RAIDGuard X Server x.x.zip
```

```
# cd /Linux/AP
```

```
# chmod 777 DTR GuiSrv
```

```
# ./DTRGuiSrv
```

Example:

```
[root@localhost Server]# ls
1.9.3
[root@localhost Server]# cd 1.9.3/
[root@localhost 1.9.3]# ls
Linux
[root@localhost 1.9.3]# cd Linux/
[root@localhost Linux]# ls
i386  x86_64
[root@localhost Linux]# cd i386/
[root@localhost i386]# ls
AP_Accusys
[root@localhost i386]# cd AP_Accusys/
[root@localhost AP_Accusys]# ls
activation.jar      event_bin_5555555555555556  MulticastReceiver.class
DTRGuiSrv          event_bin_5003962100500088  SendMail$1.class
DTRGuiTmp0         event_5003962100500088      SendMail.class
DTRGuiTmp0.sh      inband_cmd_5555555555555556  sock2srv.class
EchoAliveThread.class  inband_cmd_5003962100500088  sockThread.class
EchoBack$1.class      jMsgFrame.class              srvGui_req_frame.class
EchoBack$2.class      mailBootMsg0                 UDPBombermanServer.class
EchoBack.class        mailBootMsg1                 UDPSever.class
event_5555555555555556  mail.jar
[root@localhost AP_Accusys]# chmod 777 DTRGuiSrv
[root@localhost AP_Accusys]# ./DTRGuiSrv
```

3. Open CD ROM/GUI/Client/x.x. Open a terminal window on the folder, and enter the following commands:

```
# java -version
```

Check your Java version. If your JAVA version is earlier than 1.6, please go to www.java.com to upgrade.

Example:

```
[root@localhost ~]# java -version
java version "1.6.0_14"
Java(TM) SE Runtime Environment (build 1.6.0_14-b08)
Java HotSpot(TM) Client VM (build 14.0-b16, mixed mode, sharing)
[root@localhost ~]#
```

```
# cd /root/

# unzip RAIDGuard X Client x.x.zip

# cd /Client/x.x

# chmod 777 RAIDGuardX.jar

# java -jar RAIDGuardX.jar
```

PS: To change the OS default JAVA path, open a terminal window on the desktop, and enter the following commands:

```
# vi /etc/profile
```

Insert the following context description into /etc/profile.

(Replace the correct Java version that you installed in the following.):

```
export JAVA_HOME="/usr/java/jre1.6.0_14"
```

```
export JRE_HOME="$JAVA_HOME/jre"
```

```
export PATH="$JAVA_HOME/bin":$PATH:
```

```
export CLASSPATH=.: "$JAVA_HOME/lib": "$JRE_HOME/lib":
```

Example:

```
HOSTNAME="/bin/hostname"
HISTSIZE=1000

if [ -z "$INPUTRC" -a ! -f "$HOME/.inputrc" ]; then
    INPUTRC=/etc/inputrc
fi

export PATH USER LOGNAME MAIL HOSTNAME HISTSIZE INPUTRC

for i in /etc/profile.d/*.sh ; do
    if [ -r "$i" ]; then
        . $i
    fi
done

unset i
unset pathmunge
export JAVA_HOME="/usr/java/jre1.6.0_14"
export JRE_HOME="$JAVA_HOME/jre"
export PATH="$JAVA_HOME/bin":$PATH:
export CLASSPATH=.: "$JAVA_HOME/lib": "$JRE_HOME/lib":
```

```
# reboot
```

3.3.5 Confirm the ExaSAN RAID system driver on OS

3.3.5.1 Confirming the ExaSAN RAID system driver on Mac

After installing the ExaSAN RAID system HBA driver on the Mac host server, confirm the driver has been properly installed with the following steps.

1. Click on **About This Mac**.



Figure 28: to click about This MAC

2. Click on the **More Info...** button.



Figure 29: About This MAC

3. Click on the **System Report...** button.

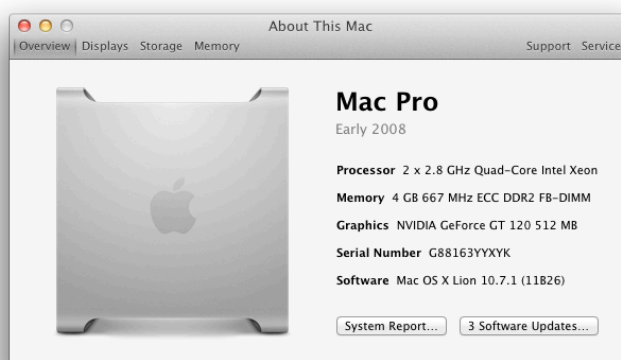


Figure 30: more info About this MAC

Under the **Hardware** category, click on **PCI Cards** to bring up information on PCI cards that are installed in the system. If the driver has been correctly installed, the HBA is listed with the **Accusys6xxxx** identifier (actual name may vary) as a **RAID Controller**. If you do not see the HBA listed here, power off the host server, reseal the card, and reinstall the driver. Refer to Appendix A FAQ Q7 if the problem persists.

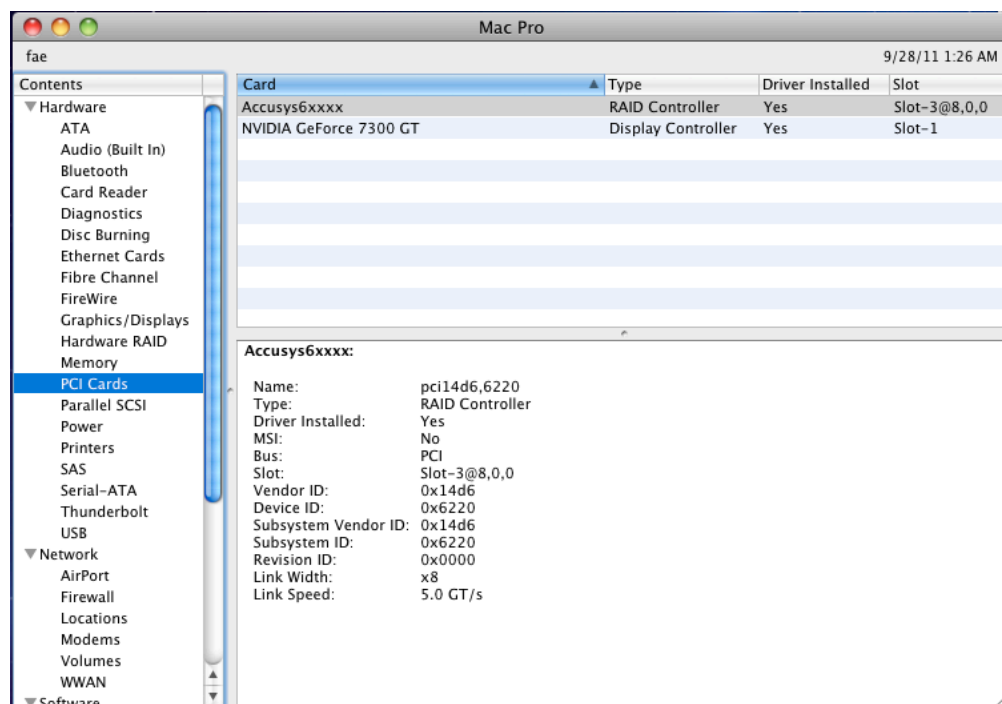


Figure 31: MAC Pro info

3.3.5.2 Confirming the ExaSAN RAID system driver in Windows

After installing the ExaSAN RAID system HBA driver on a Windows based host server, confirm the driver has been properly installed.

Go to **Control Panel -> System Properties -> Hardware -> Device Manager** (depending on the version of Windows, the path may vary). If the driver has been correctly installed, the HBA is listed with the **ACS-6xxxx** identifier (actual name may vary) as **Storage Controllers**.

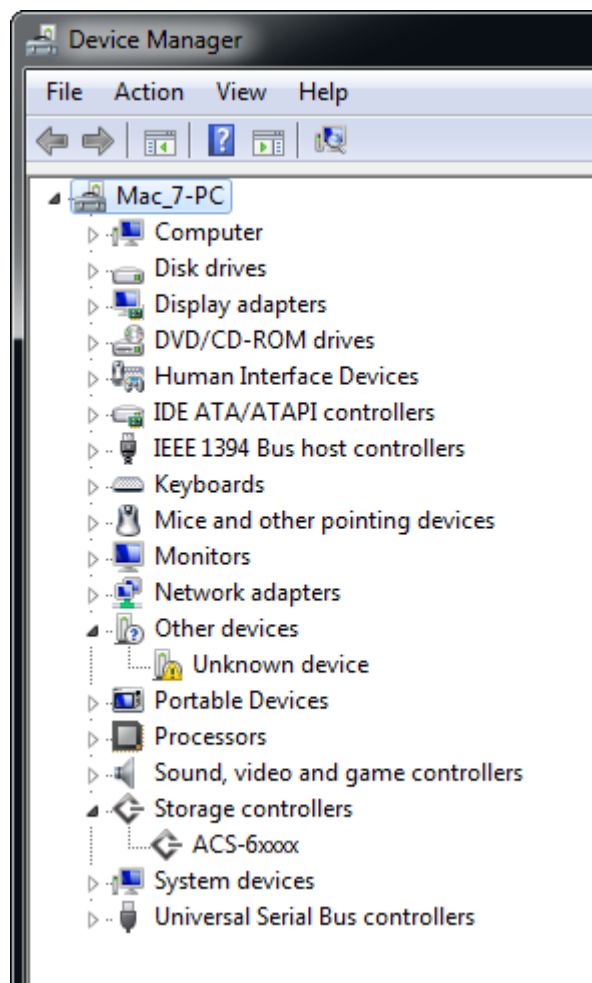


Figure 32: device manager in Windows platform

Caution

If you see the HBA listed as an unknown device under Windows, follow the driver installation steps to reinstall the driver. If you do not see the HBA under Device Manager, Windows does not detect the card. Power off the host server to reseal the HBA.

3.3.6 Confirm LEDs on HBA

Verify the Jumper Switch LED, Link LED, and Access LED on the backplane of the HBA are appropriately lit according to your installation (Refer to Section 1.5.2 ExaSAN QSFP Host Bus Adapter). If the LEDs are not on, please refer to the Appendix A FAQ Q3.

4. Using RAIDGuard X

4. Using RAIDGuardX GUI

After you have connected all your ExaSAN components, powered the system on, and installed the RAIDGuardX drivers, we will first need to perform some basic configuration and setup before the ExaSAN RAID system is fully operational.

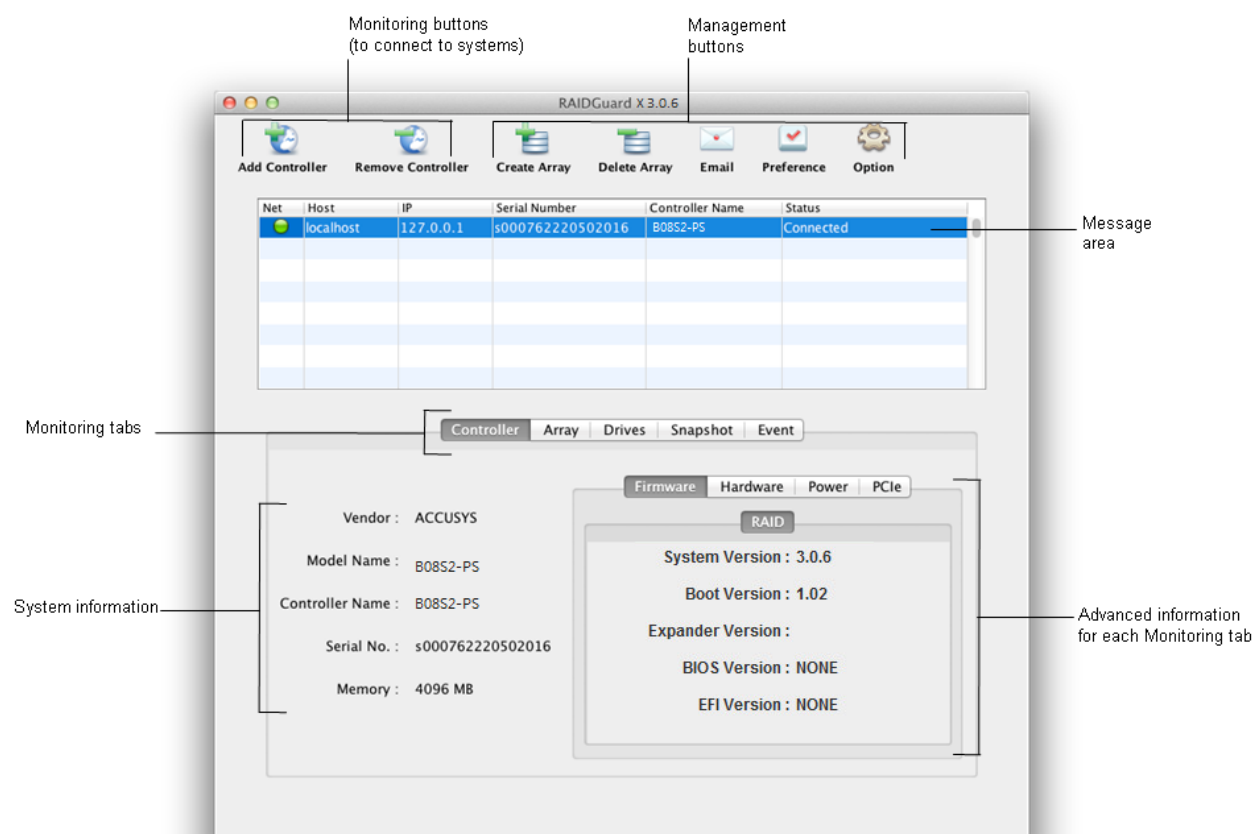


Figure 33: GUI “Main screen”

	Function		Description
1	Add Controller		Add RAID controller/system to RAIDGuard X
	Remove Controller		Remove RAID controller/system from RAIDGuard X
2	Create Array		Create an array from disk drives in the storage system
	Delete Array		Delete an array in the storage system
3	Email		Set email notification
4	Preference	Drive Lag Proof	Enable/ Disable Drive Lag Proof
		NCQ Mode	Enable/ Disable NCQ mode
		SMART Mode	Enable/ Disable SMART Mode
		Beeper	Enable/ Disable Beeper
		Equalization	Enable/ Disable Equalization

		Mode	
5	Option	Slicing	Divide an existing array into multiple slices.
		LUN Map	Map volumes of slices to the LUN of the host
		Expansion	Increase total capacity of an array by adding spare drives
		Migration	Migrate current RAID level to a selected RAID level
		Snapshot	Create mirror(s) of existing volumes of array for backup
		Health Center	Repair and maintain arrays
		Unlock Drives	Change the locked drive(s) status

4.1 Accessing the RAIDGuardX GUI

4.1.1 RAIDGuard X Client and Server

This chapter details the usage of the RAIDGuard X Client/Server. Before you can access the RAID controller, you must load the RAIDGuard X Server on the host server.

RAIDGuard X Client

When installing RAIDGuard X, the software and drivers are automatically installed in your Host. The RAIDGuard X interface will display RAID systems connected to the Host via PCIe cable.



Figure 34: GUI "MAC OS X platform"

To access RAIDGuard X Client:

For Macs: Go -> Application -> RAIDGuard X -> RAIDGuard X Client

For Windows: Start -> Program -> Accusys -> RAIDGuard X -> RAIDGuard X Client

RAIDGuard X Server

RAIDGuard X can provide remote configuring and monitoring features. A host with RAIDGuard X Server installed can use RAIDGuard X to identify Accusys RAID systems on the same network, regardless if it is DAS or SAN. RAIDGuard X enables one server to configure multiple RAID systems, but you can only configure one RAID system at a time. To configure another RAID system, you must log out and then select another system.

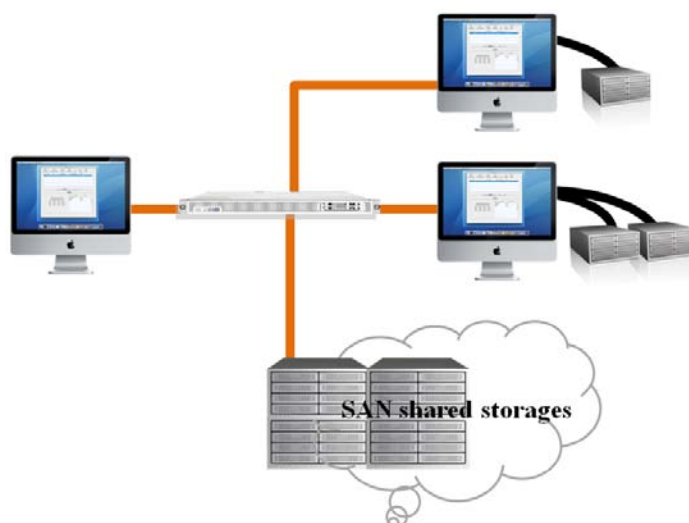


Figure 35: GUI “SAN environment”

RAIDGuard X Server runs constantly in the background on the host system.

To access RAIDGuard X Server:

For Macs: Go -> Application -> RAIDGuard X -> RAIDGuard X Server

For Windows: Start -> Program -> Accusys -> RAIDGuard X -> RAIDGuard X Server

4.1.2 RAIDGuard X Menu Bar



The menu bar across the top contains the following functions:

File –

Exit – Close the program.

Load Controller List – Refresh the controller list.

Language – English and Japanese are supported.

Note

These events are automatically saved as a txt file.

1. If your A12S2-PS is attached to a host directly (DAS): the path of the log is in RAIDGuard X \Log.
2. If your A12S2-PS is connected to ExaSAN switch (SAN): the path of the log is in /Library/StartupItems/RGX_Accusys.

Please send the log file to your vendor or Accusys tech support team to analyze. support@accusys.com.tw

Controller –

Manual Add Controller – Manually search and add the controller. Refer to Section 4.1.2.1 Adding and Removing Controllers.

Update –

Update System Code – Click to update the firmware of the controller.

Update Boot Code – Click to update the boot code of the controller.

Update BIOS & EFI – Click to update the BIOS or EFI of the controller.

Dump controller log – Download the events log stored in the flash memory of the RAID controller. Useful for sending to Accusys FAE support during troubleshooting.

Shutdown controller – When user clicks the option, RAID controller would write the data from memory to HDDs forcibly.

Help –

About RAIDGuard X – Displays information about the RAIDGuard X version.

Help Center – Displays the help for RAIDGuard X.

4.1.2.1 Adding and Removing Controllers

In order to administer a controller, it first needs to be added to the network. Once added, the administrator is given full control over the controller.

RAIDGuard X is a powerful GUI management system. It can be used for remotely monitoring the RAID controller. If using the server to administer RAID configurations, you must make sure that the RAID host and server are on the same network. The direct attached storage client can also add or remove controllers in RAIDGuard X.

Adding

1. Click **Add Controller** to display a list of available controllers on the network. If the ExaSAN RAID system is used as a DAS, the controller is displayed as “Local” under the IP field.
2. Click on the controller to administer, enter the password. The default password for the Accusys PCIe controllers is 00000000 (8 zeros).
3. Assign a name to the controller and click **Add**.

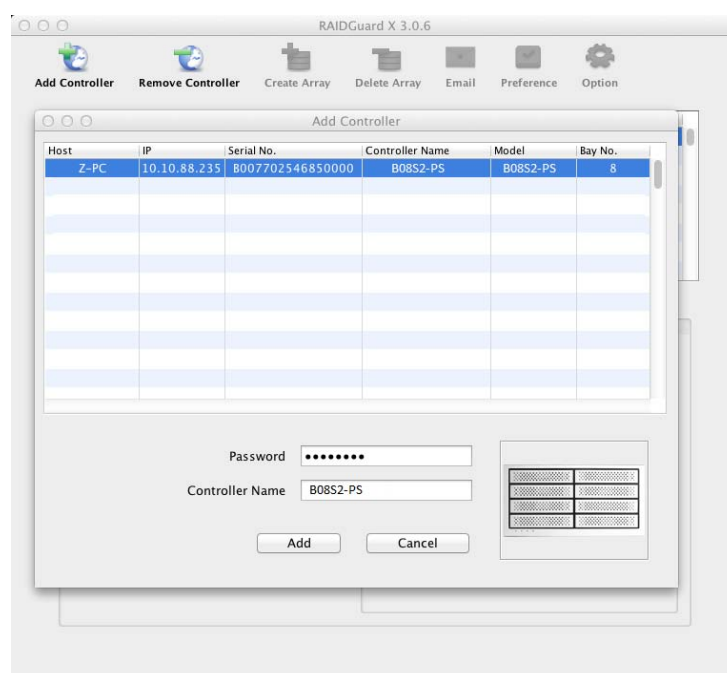


Figure 36: GUI “Add RAID controller”

4. The Main screen lists the controller after it has been successfully added.

Note

To change the controller password, refer to Section 4.1.2.7.3 MISC.

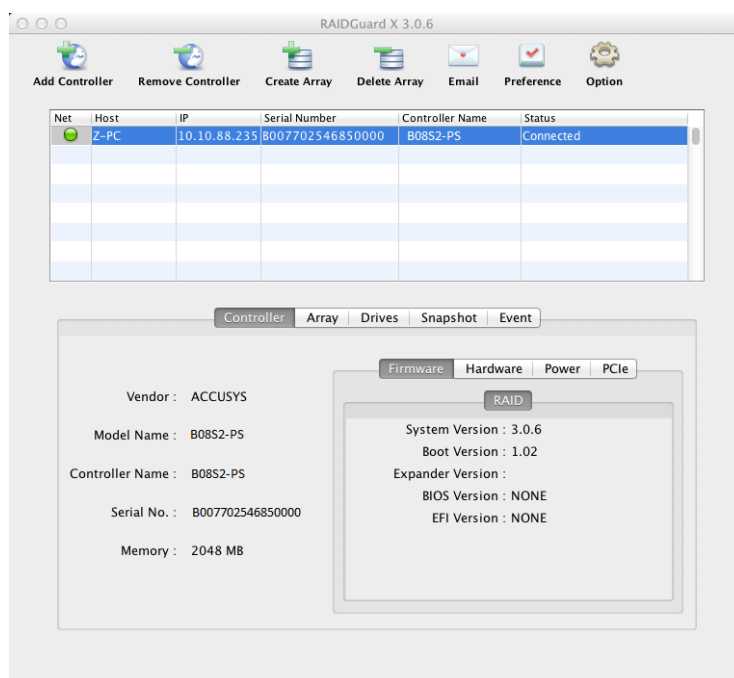


Figure 37: GUI “RAID controller info”

Manual Add Controller

In the event that a firewall is used or special network settings are in place, RAIDGuard X client may not be able to detect the Server in the Main Menu. In this case, you can manually add another controller in the network.

1. Click on Controller on the menu bar and select **Manual Add controller**.

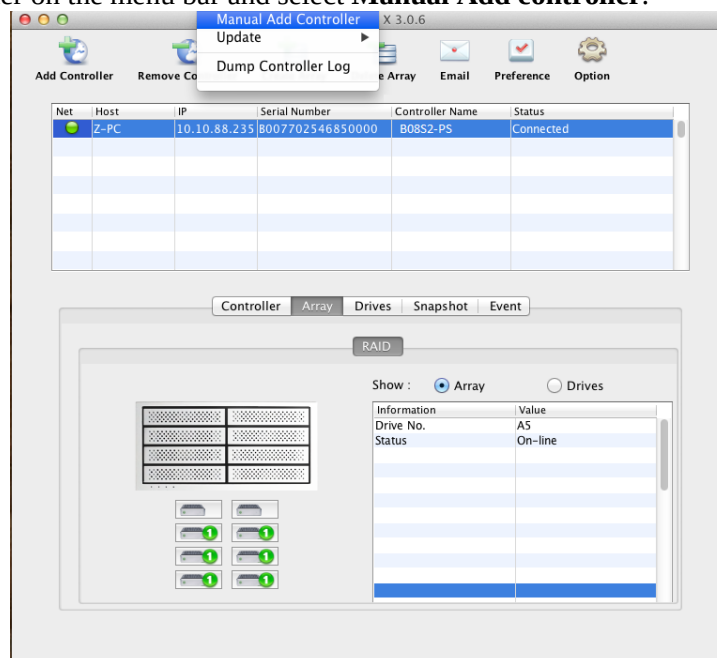


Figure 38: GUI “Manual add RAID controller 1/2”

2. Enter the Server or Switch IP.

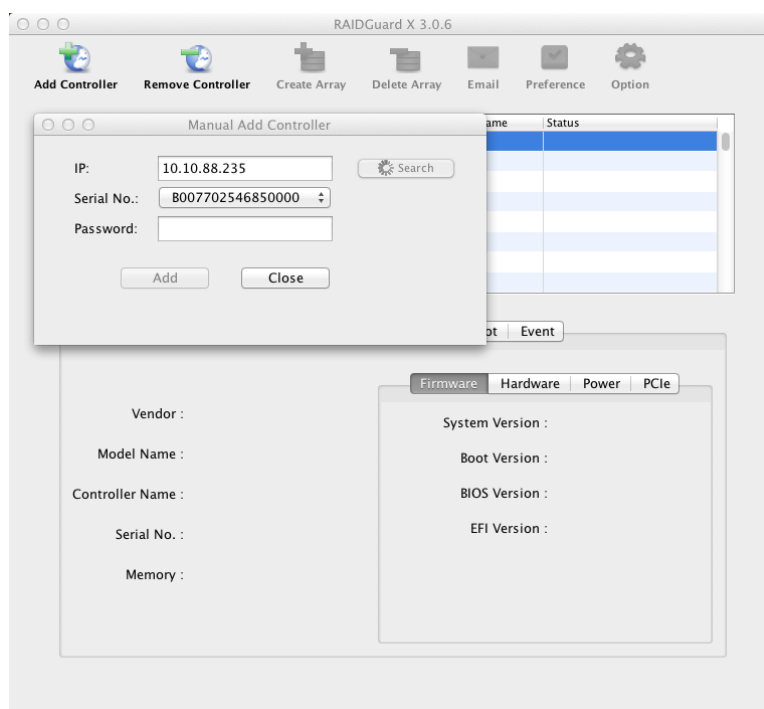


Figure 39: GUI “Manual add RAID controller 2/2”

3. Click **Search** and wait for the Serial Number to populate.
4. Type the password (default is 00000000) for the controller.
5. Click **Add** to finish adding the controller.

Removing

To remove a controller, select a controller and then click the **Remove Controller** button to remove the controller from the table. When the popup window appears, select **Yes**.

4.1.2.2 Planning your RAID

Before using RAIDGuard X to set up your RAID storage, it is a good idea to become familiar with the variety of configurations, or schemes, that are available for the ExaSAN RAID storage. This section describes these schemes and illustrates how each RAID level is applied.

RAID Level	Description	Capacity
RAID 0	Striping, the fastest and most efficient array type but offers no fault-tolerance	Total of all drives
RAID 1	Mirroring, All disks have the same data	Total of one drive
RAID 5	Block-level striping with distributed parity, one disk fault tolerant	Total of all drives minus one drive
RAID 6	Block-level striping with double distributed parity, two disks fault tolerant	Total of all drives minus two drives
RAID 0+1	Combines the advantage of R0 and R1, provides optimal speed and reliability	One-half the total capacity of drives (Sum of RAID 1 member sets)

When configuring RAID, you may take the follow items into consideration:

1. Are you using a DAS or SAN environment?
2. Do you currently have more than one RAID or JBOD?
3. Which is more important, transfer speed or data security? One or two disk fault tolerance?
4. Do you need multiple volume or single volume on your RAID systems?
5. Do you have to consider the metadata volume for SAN software?
6. Do you consider using Global spare drives?
7. The number of disk drives used determines the speed of the RAID created. Take into account the desired speed when configuring RAID.

DAS Example 1:

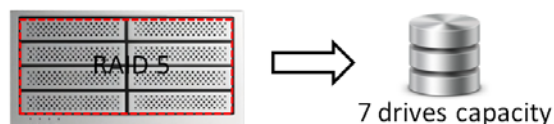


Figure 40: Create array with 8 HDDs in RAID 5

DAS Example 2:

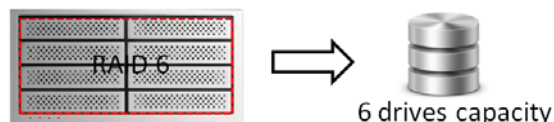


Figure 41: Create array with 8 HDDs in RAID 6

DAS Example 3:

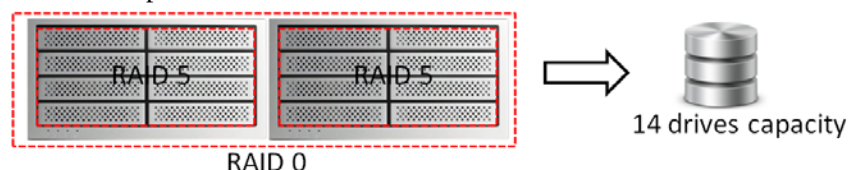


Figure 42: Create array with 16 HDDs in two RAID5

SAN Example 1:



Figure 43: Create array with 8 HDDs in one RAID 5 and one RAID 1

SAN Example 2:

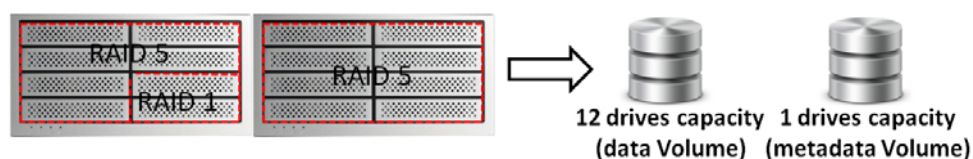


Figure 44: Create array with 16 HDDs in two of two RAID5 and one RAID 1

SAN Example 3:

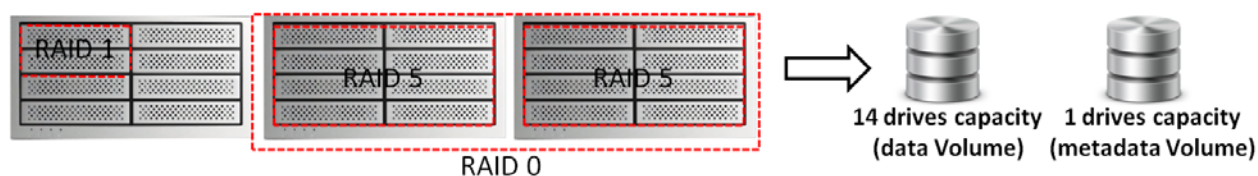


Figure 45: Create array with 18 HDDs in two RAID5 and one RAID1

4.1.2.3 Creating and Deleting an Array

Administrators can choose how best to distribute the available hard disk drives. Once an array has been created, it can be further administered in the **Options** section.

Creating an Array

When the RAID controller is first configured, an array needs to be set up. This array tells the controller how many disks to use and what their function should be.

Follow the steps below to create an array:

1. Select the RAID level from the drop down menu. Available levels are: 0, 1, 5, 6, 0+1 and JBOD.

Note

Each RAID level has a minimum disk requirement. This is shown in the information to the right of the drop down list. For example, RAID 5 requires at least 3 drives.

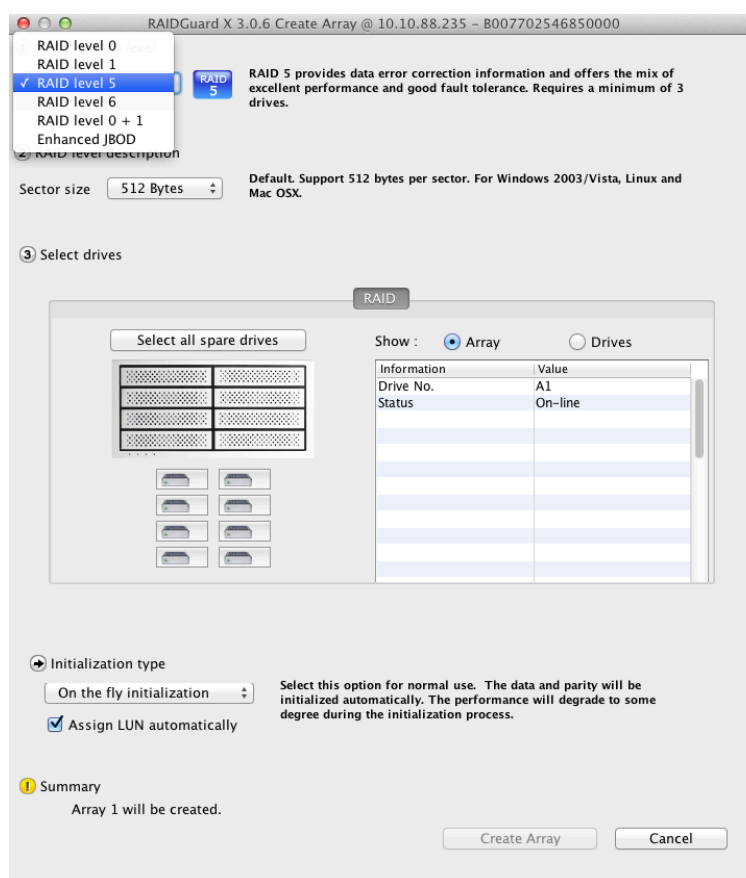


Figure 46: GUI “Select RAID level”

Note

Details on the RAID levels are in **Chapter 5 RAID Overview**.

2. Select the stripe size from the drop down menu. Available stripe sizes are: 8-256KB. The greater the stripe size, the faster the I/O output for each drive. This speeds up disk access.
3. Select the sector size from the drop down menu. Available sector sizes are 512 bytes (default) and 4096 bytes. The sector size 4096 bytes is only supported by Windows 2000/XP, and over 2 Terabyte function is used. For other OSes, please select 512 bytes (default).

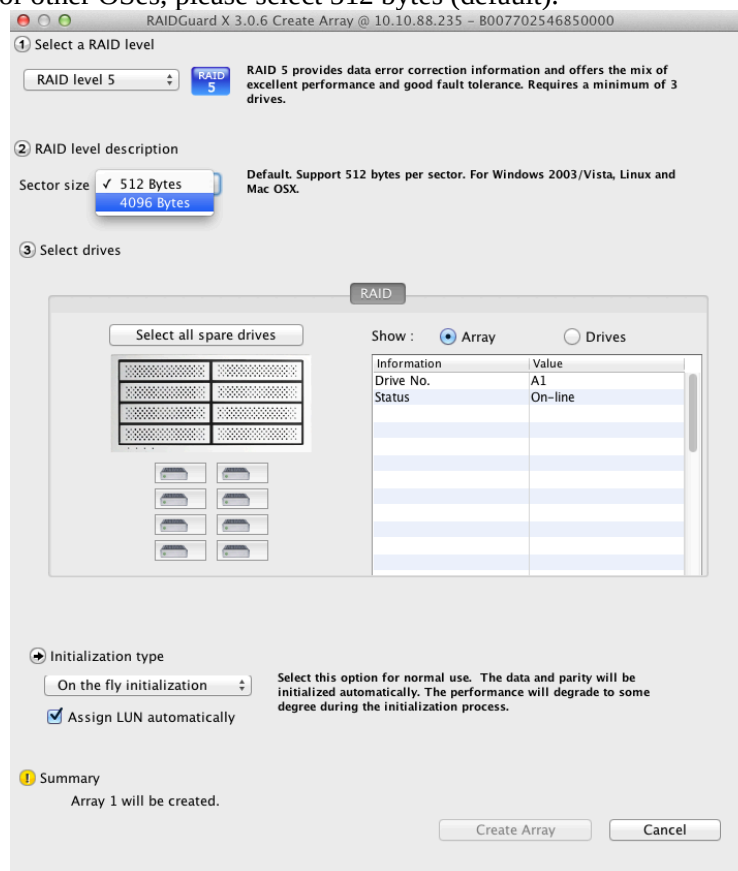


Figure 47: GUI “Select sector size”

4. Click on the drives to be added to the array. You can also click on **Select all spare drivers**.

Note

Hot (Global) spare drive – When building an array, the hard drives which are not defined will be used as spare drives for all arrays defined within the controller. If a drive(s) in use fails, a spare drive(s) will replace the faulty drive in the array and rebuild automatically. One of the advantages of adopting hot spare drive is to reduce the downtime.

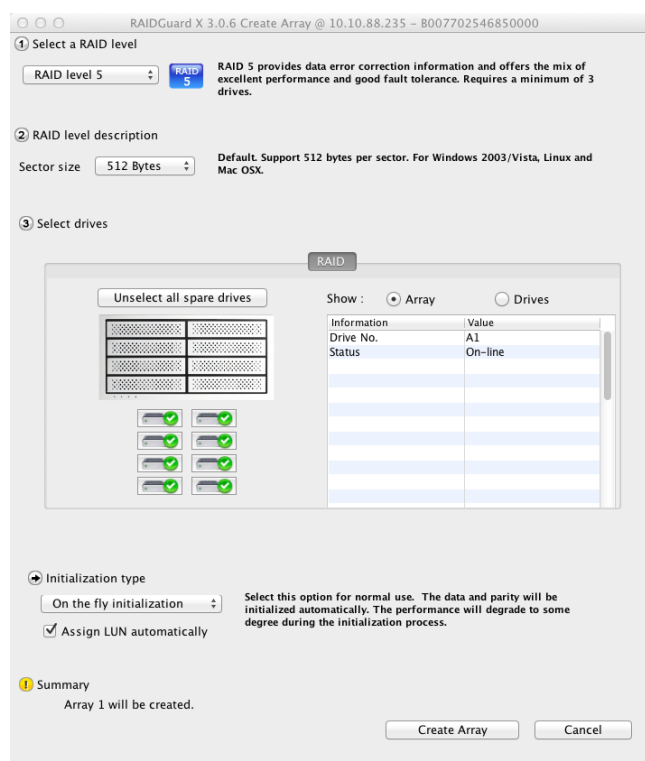


Figure 48: GUI “Select hard drives”

Optional: From the drop down menu, select either **On-the-fly initialization** or **Performance evaluation**.

On-the-fly initialization – ExaSAN RAID systems record the initialized sectors in the bitmap. All sectors are initialized only once. The entire initialization process will be completed faster and the performance will be better during the initialization.

During on-the-fly initialization, 65-75% of the full speed (of a created RAID) is still available. You can still use the RAID system during the RAID initialization.

Select this option (default) to ensure the completeness of the array. If this option is selected, it will recalculate the disk parity and data organization (how it is arranged). The amount of time required for the initialization process varies depending on the disk volume.

Performance evaluation – Select to evaluate the performance of the target array. Data and parity are not initialized. (No data protection when this mode is on).

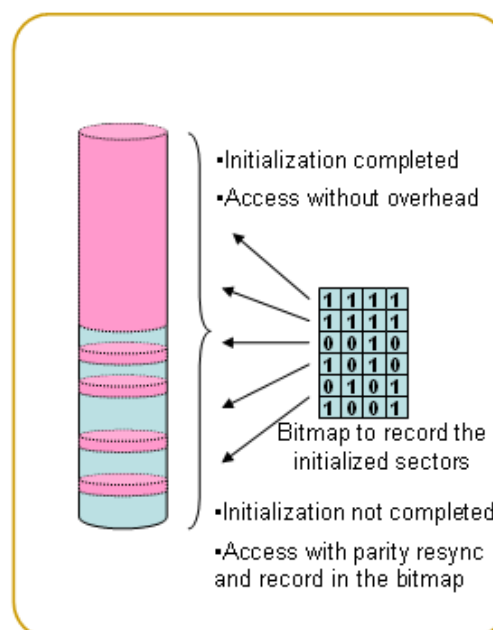


Figure 49: parity initialize

Note

Once you click **Create Array** and you have selected On-the-fly initialization, you will see the initializing % on the Main screen.

You will be able to use and configure the array immediately if it is created using On-the-fly initialization. However, the RAID performance of the array will be slightly lower than usual before the initialization is complete.

Assign LUN automatically

Check this box to automatically assign a LUN. You may choose to assign LUN manually under **Options**. However, you will not be able to use the RAID volume until it has been assigned a LUN.

Click **Create Array** to complete the process.

Note

If you attempt to create a RAID set without meeting the minimum required number of hard disk drives, and error message will pop up after clicking **Create Array**.

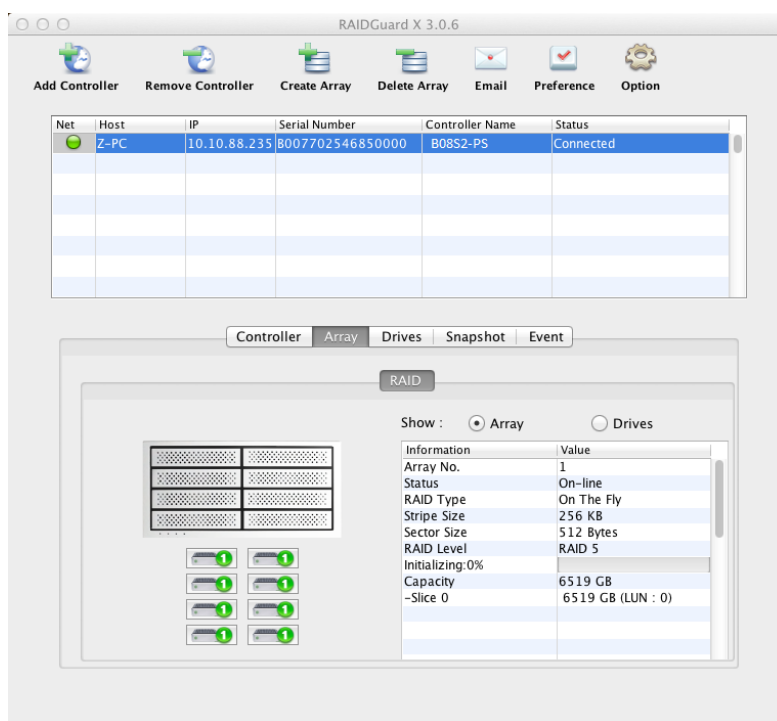


Figure 50: GUI “Array initializing percentage”

After the array has been created, the Main screen displays the newly created array with an array number. The array initialization progress is also displayed.

Arrays are assigned numbers in the order they are created. For example, the first array created is labeled with the “1” icon; the second array created is labeled with the “2” icon, and so forth.

Note

The ExaSAN RAID controller can support a maximum of 4 arrays. Once 4

arrays have been created, the **Summary** section indicates all arrays numbers are in use and you will not be allowed to create more arrays.

Delete an Array

Deleting an array removes the selected array, and allows the drives to be used in another array, or reconfigured for a new array. Follow the steps to delete an array.

1. Click on the drives containing the array to be deleted.
2. Check the **Confirm** box. Click **Delete Array** to complete the process.

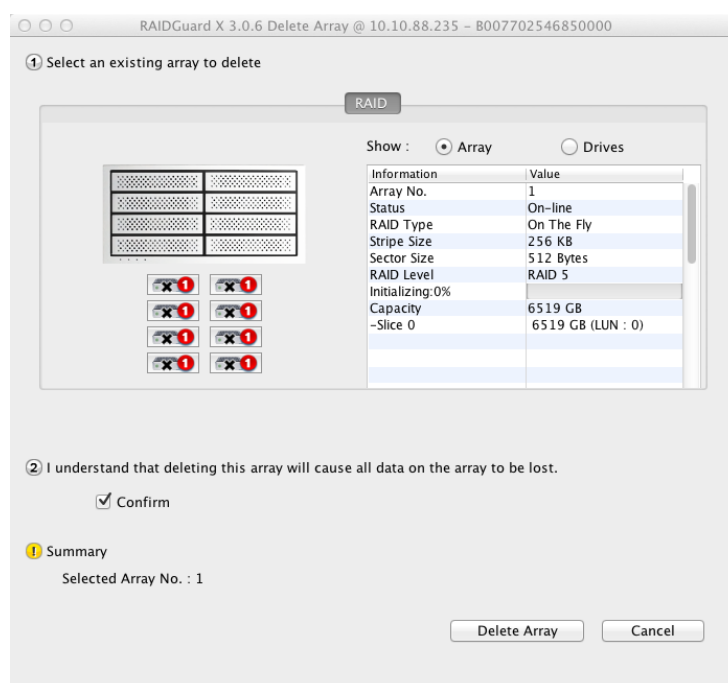


Figure 51: GUI “Delete array”

Caution

When you delete an array, all data on the hard disk drives will be lost.

4.1.2.4 Controller Info

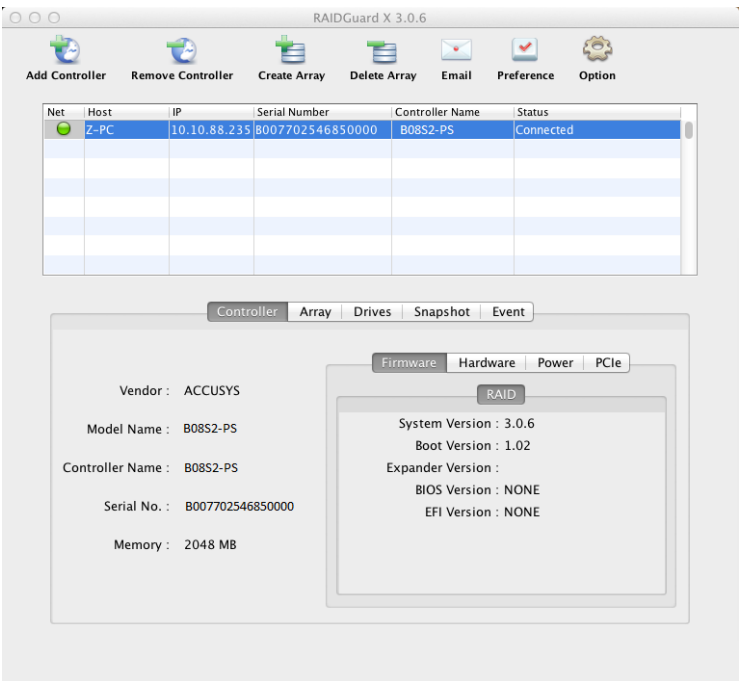


Figure 52: GUI “Controller info”

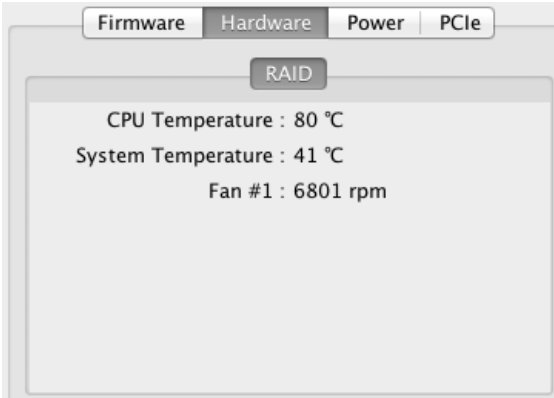
The system information section provides details on the vendor, model name, controller name, serial number, and memory size. It also has 4 tabs: **Firmware**, **Hardware**, **Power**, and **PCIe**.

The **Firmware** tab details the system version, boot version, BIOS version and EFI version.



The **Power** tab details the battery backup module status and power supply status.

The **Hardware** tab details the CPU temperature, system temperature, and fan speeds.



The **PCIe** tab details the PCIe status.

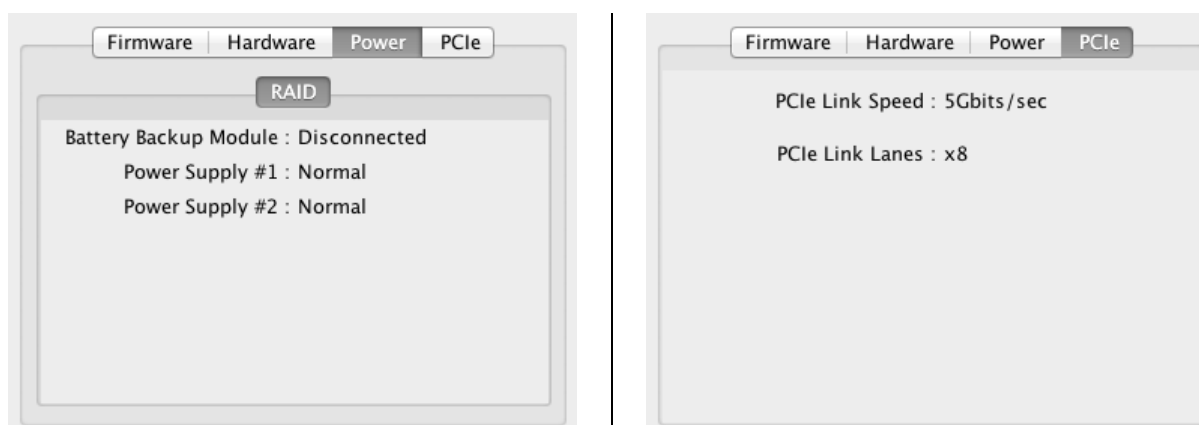


Figure 53: GUI “Controller info for four sections”

Array

The Array & Drives tab provides details on the status of the drives, such as which array they are assigned to. It also has 2 radio buttons: Array and Drives.

The icons next to each drive will change depending on whether the Accusys PCIe controller is installed. The number above the drive indicates the array number.

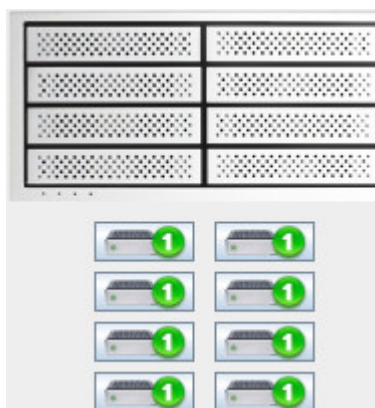
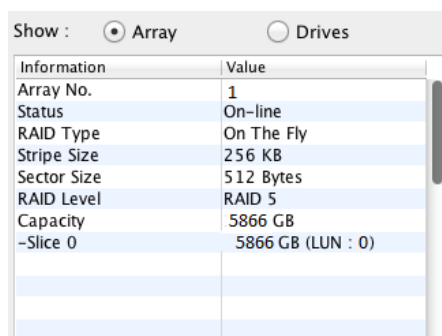


Figure 54: GUI “Array member”

Clicking the Array radio button displays information about the array: the array number, Status, RAID type, stripe size, sector size, RAID Level, capacity, and slice.

The status of array actions, such as initialization, migration, and expansion, can be viewed under the Array tab.

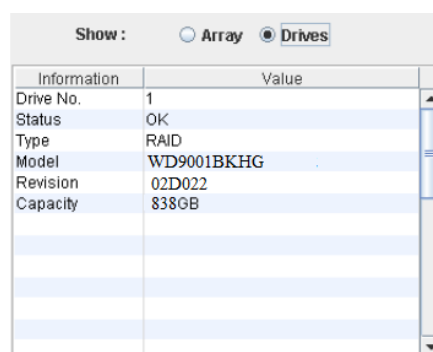


The screenshot shows a window titled 'Show :'. It has two radio buttons: 'Array' (selected) and 'Drives'. Below the buttons is a table with two columns: 'Information' and 'Value'.

Information	Value
Array No.	1
Status	On-line
RAID Type	On The Fly
Stripe Size	256 KB
Sector Size	512 Bytes
RAID Level	RAID 5
Capacity	5866 GB
-Slice 0	5866 GB (LUN : 0)

Figure 55: GUI “Array tab”

Clicking the Drives radio button displays information about individual drives. Click on each drive image to view the drive number, status (On-line or Failed), drive type (RAID or Spare), model, revision status and capacity.



The screenshot shows a window titled 'Show :'. It has two radio buttons: 'Array' and 'Drives' (selected). Below the buttons is a table with two columns: 'Information' and 'Value'.

Information	Value
Drive No.	1
Status	OK
Type	RAID
Model	WD9001BKHG
Revision	02D022
Capacity	838GB

Figure 56: GUI “Drive tab”

Drives

Displays the overview of all drives for the selected controller.

Snapshot

The progress of the snapshot is displayed in the snapshot tab. To enable the snapshot function, see **Options > Snapshot**.

Event

Displays a list of the most recent events. These events are automatically saved in **RAIDGuard X/Application/Log** as .txt files.

4.1.2.5 Formatting and Mounting Arrays

After creating a RAID array on the ExaSAN RAID system, the array appears as an unformatted disk to the host system. Use the host's disk management utility to format and mount the array for use.

Note

The following steps are for MAC users only. For PC users, consult with your operating systems knowledge base on using the disk management utility to format and mount arrays.

1. Restart the host system. In some instances, restarting the host system may not be necessary, but if you are creating or adding arrays, you generally must restart before the arrays are visible in Disk Utility.
2. Open Disk Utility on the host system.
3. Select the array in the list at the left side of the window.
4. Click on the **Erase** tab.
5. Choose a format for the array from the Volume Format pop-up menu.
6. Type a name for the array.
7. Click **Erase** and confirm by clicking **Erase** again. Once formatting is complete, the array mounts on the host system.
8. Repeat for each new array.

4.1.2.6 Email Notification Setting

It may be necessary for network administrators to receive e-mails in the event of errors, alerts, and changes to the RAID array. These alerts can be e-mailed to a maximum of 20 e-mail addresses.

Mailing List

Enter the e-mail address(es) of people to receive controller error reports.

Click **Remove** to delete e-mail addresses from the list.

Click **Send Test Email** to check that the e-mail is working.

SMTP Setting

Mail Server Name – Enter the address of the mail server.

From Email Address – Enter the e-mail address of the mail server.

SMTP Server – requires authentication for user name and password

Check this box if your mail server requires a user name and password.

SMTP POST event

Check this box if wish to create a log for error events.

Note

Ask your systems administrator for SMTP Server details.

RAIDGuard X 3.0.6 Email @ 10.10.88.235 - 8007702546850000

Mailing List

To Email Address
accusys@accusys.com.tw

Remove Send Test Email

SMTP Setting

Mail Server Name ms.accusys.com.tw

From Email Address example@accusys.com.tw

☒ SMTP Server - requires authentication for user name and password

User Name example Password

☒ SMTP POST event

OK Cancel

Figure 57: GUI “e-mail setting”

4.1.2.7 Preference Setting

This menu allows administrators to set the conditions of the controller, such as performance modes, caching, and miscellaneous functions.

4.1.2.7.1 Mode

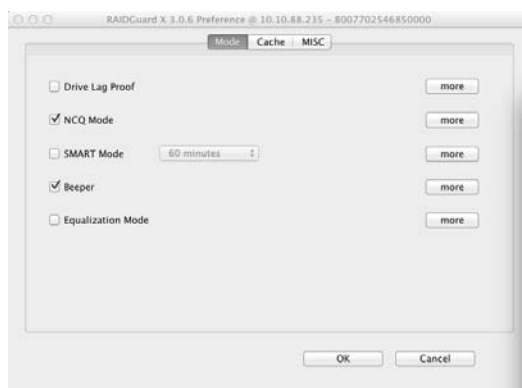


Figure 58: GUI “Mode setting”

Disk Lag Proof Mode – This feature ensures the stability and continuity of the RAID performance. In RAID 5 and RAID 6, DLP prevents the aging or slow responds of a single hard disk from influencing the overall performance. The advantage of this feature will not be felt until some hard disks fail to perform well.

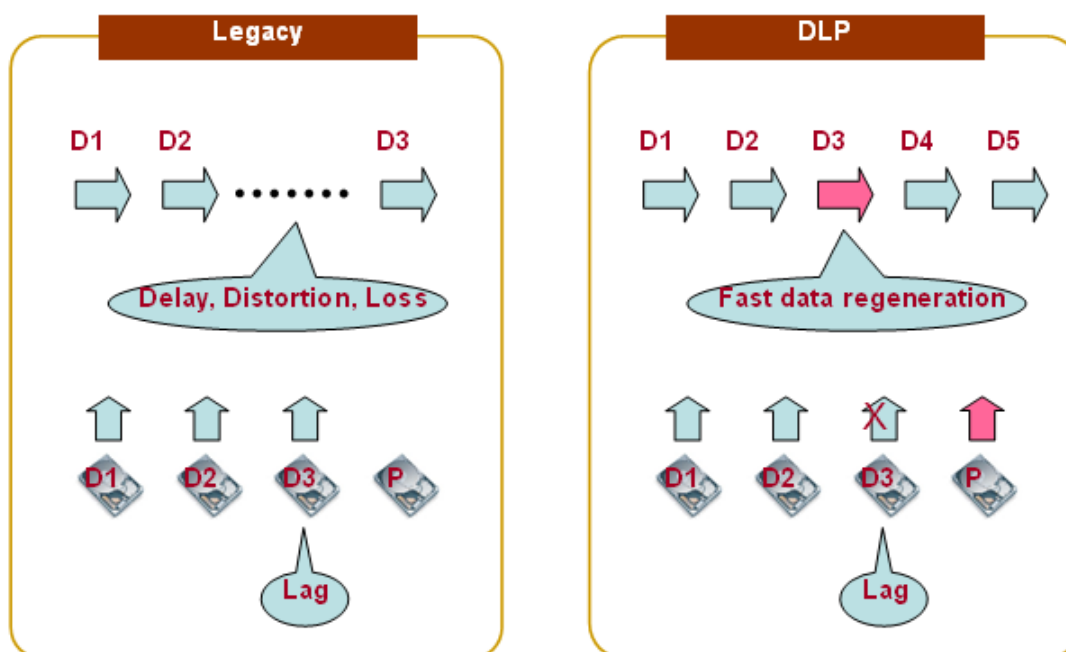


Figure 59: DLP concept

In the event of performance degradation or delay of a single drive due to aging, the ExaSAN RAID system reads both data and parity stripes concurrently. It bypasses the slow reads and returns data to the host with the regenerated data and to provide stabled performance based on the RAID parity.

Note

Although slow responds of some hard disks can be tolerated in DLP mode, you may use S.M.A.R.T. function to check the conditions of hard disks in an array and replace the faulty ones.

Note

This function does not support JBOD and NRAID.

NCQ (Native Command Queuing) – This mode is designed for increasing disk drive access on SCSI and SATA disk drives. It can do this under certain situations by allowing the individual hard disk to internally optimize the order in which it executes the read and write requests it receives. This can reduce the amount of unnecessary drive head movement and resulting in better performance for work loads where multiple read/write requests and outstanding at the same time.

This situation most often occurs in server-type applications. However, the current technology actually slows down disk drive access in certain applications, such as video editing and sequential reads and writes, because of the added latency induced by NCQ.

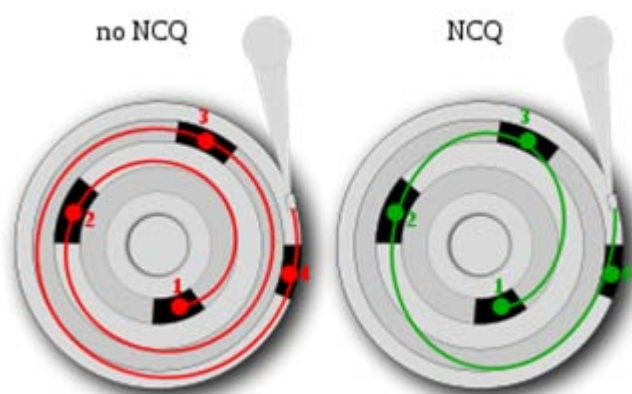


Figure 60: NCQ concept

The figure above illustrates the access sequence in NCQ and non-NCQ mode. The content sequences of the two hard disks are the same: 1, 2, 3, 4. However, the access sequence in NCQ mode may vary to improve the performance.

Note

If Equalization mode is enabled, NCQ is automatically turned off.

SMART Mode – S.M.A.R.T. is a monitoring system of disk drives to detect and report on various indicators of reliability, in the hope of anticipating failure. ExaSAN RAID system supports S.M.A.R.T. Once this function is selected, you can select the check interval from the drop-down list. Choose from 1 minute to 8 hours for SMART Mode to be active. The RAID controller will command each hard disk to perform S.M.A.R.T. according to the check interval selected. The check results will be shown as an Event message in the main menu.

When running S.M.A.R.T., the performance of the system will be slightly affected. The higher the check frequency, the more the sequential access is influenced. It is recommended to turn off S.M.A.R.T. if high frequency is needed. On the other hand, running S.M.A.R.T. constantly allows you to monitor the conditions of hard disks at any time.

Different hard disk models and brands will have different attributes in the reporting of S.M.A.R.T. Event message will show all messages generated by the hard disk.

Beeper – If the Beeper option is enabled, the system will sound an audible alarm in the event of an error. Users can respond to the error promptly and carry out troubleshooting.

If the error indicated by the Beeper alarm has been resolved, you may perform one of the following to turn off the alarm.

1. Uncheck the **Beeper** option.
2. Press the “Mute” button on the front panel.

Equalization Mode – Regardless the transmission method, the data transmission speed can not be guaranteed at all times. This feature allows the continuous I/Os to operate more smoothly and substantially reduce large fluctuations in efficiency during data transfer. For video editing, enable equalization to prevent video frame drops.

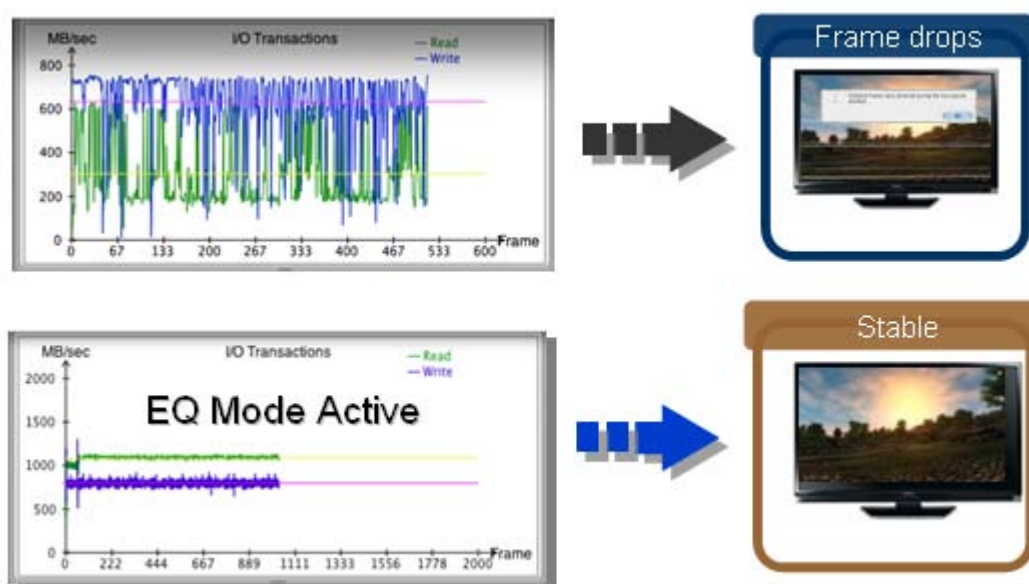


Figure 61: EQ mode concept

This mode is designed to provide smooth sequential access, such as during video editing and capture, to the RAID system. To achieve best system performance, NCQ mode is automatically turned off.

4.1.2.7.2 Cache

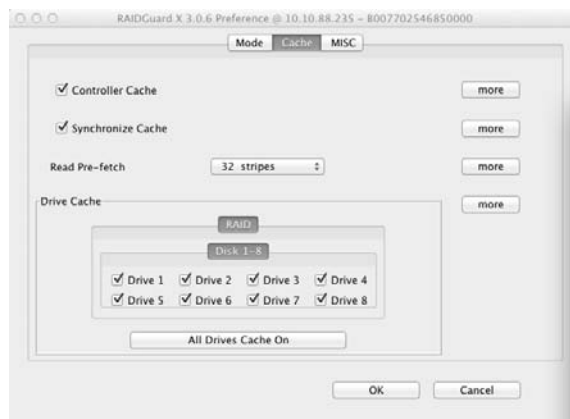


Figure 62: GUI “Cache”

Cache memory in the controller enhances read and write performance, improving overall storage throughput streaming data can be queued into the cache to dramatically accelerate read performance. Under different applications, cache has different influence on the RAID system.

Controller Cache – Check this box to enable the controller cache. This speeds up the data transfer to and from the disks.

Caution

If controller cache is enabled, it is suggested that you use a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) system to prevent a data loss scenario.

Synchronize Cache – Check this box to enable cache synchronization. When Synchronize Cache mode is disabled, the RAID controller works correctly but does not actually perform any cache flushing. For video capture, disable synchronization because the video capture needs to be able to constantly write data to the RAID storage without long SYNCHRONIZE_CACHE latency. Synchronize cache commands the controller to regularly synchronize the information on the drive and is usually used in conjunction with the UPS.

Note

This option is available if **Mode > Equalization Mode** is unchecked.

Read Pre-fetch – Identifies sequential access patterns and aggressively pre-fetches patterns into cache. From the drop down list, choose the number of stripes to pre-fetch. The default is 32; this is the recommended number.

Drive Cache – Choose which drives to cache. When more than one application accesses the database, the first applications cache needs to synchronize with the second. Each drive contains a built in write cache; checking these boxes chooses which drives to enable the caching on. Caching improves the efficiency and speed of data transfer.

All Drives Cache On/All Drives Cache Off – Click this button to enable/disable the caching on for all available drives.

4.1.2.7.3 MISC

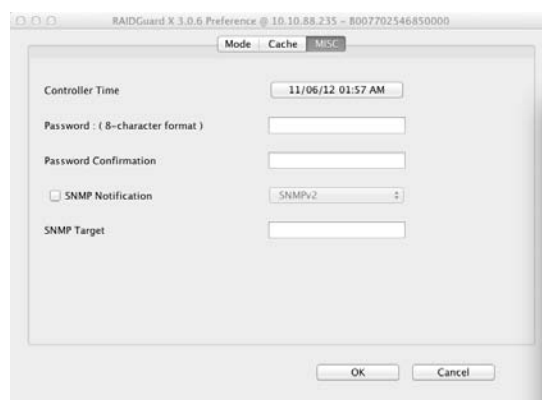


Figure 63: GUI “MISC”

MSIC (Minimal Instruction Set Computer) has standard RAID controller CPU time settings. The time of each event is displayed in the event logs in Event message.

Controller Time – Click this button to see a calendar and to change the time and date of the controller.

Password – Enter the new controller password. The default password is 00000000 (8 zeros). Type another 8 characters.

Password Confirmation – Confirm the new controller password.

Note:

Do not lose your password. If it is lost, you will have to contact your agent or the Accusys Support Team.

SNMP Notification – Select **SNMPv1** or **SNMPv2** to send notifications for error conditions and possible problems to the SNMP servers. SNMP stands for Simple Network Management Protocol.

SNMP Target – Enter the IP address for sending the SNMP notifications.

Note:

The ExaSAN RAID system supports SNMP. It can set "System on IP networks" and allows servers to manage the system remotely.

4.1.2.8 Options Function Setting

The Options menu provides the methods for changing the details of and fixing problems with the array. Click on the radio button for the required option, and then click **Next** to proceed.



Figure 64: GUI “Slicing”

4.1.2.8.1 Slicing

You can subdivide a RAID array into segments, or slices. These slices are effective hardware partitions of all drives in the array. Each slice is a separate LUN and appears as a separate volume on the host computer. After slicing, the LUN map must be set for each slice.

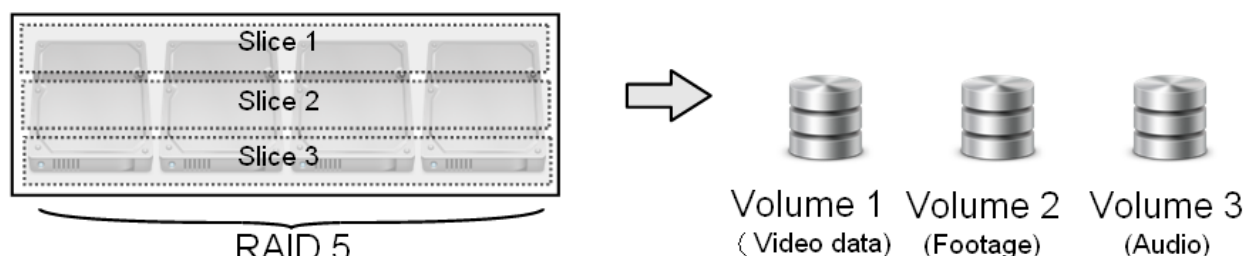
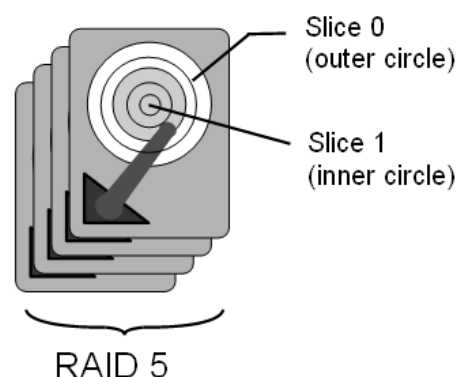


Figure 65: slicing concept

Usage Scenario:

The access speed of the data stored in the outer circle is faster than that of the inner circle. Suppose that there are two slices in a hard drive. Slice 0 locates in the outer circles while Slice 1 the inner circle. In A/V making, you may store video data in Slice 0 and Audio data in random access in Slice 1.



Note

You can create up to 16 slices per array and 64 LUNs on the controller. The total number of unique arrays' slices can not exceed 16.

Follow the steps below to select an array to slice or merge.

1. Select the array to slice or merge by clicking on a drive with an array number. The capacity is displayed. By default, Slice 0 contains the entire capacity of the disk array.
2. Click on Slice 0, and use the slide bar or buttons to free space for creating other slices. Click OK to confirm.

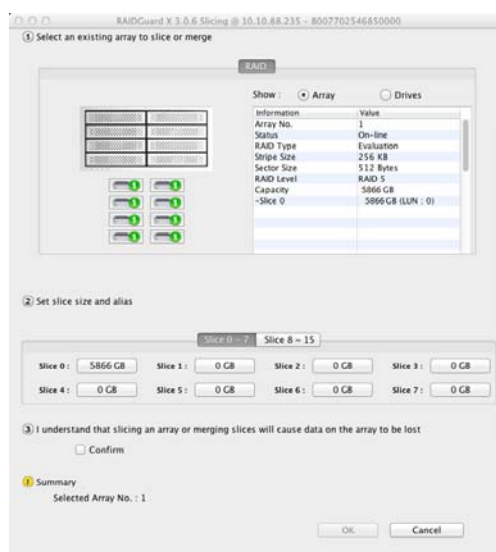


Figure 66: GUI “Slicing 1/3”

- Click on the slice to create, and use the slider bar or buttons to adjust the size. Click **OK** to confirm.

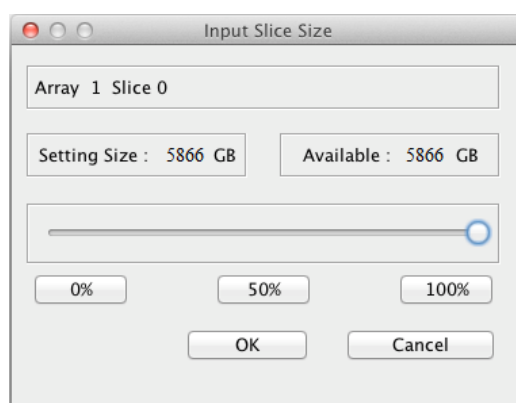


Figure 67: GUI “Slicing 2/3”

- Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK**.

RAIDGuard X 3.0.6 Slicing @ 10.10.88.235 - B007702546850000

① Select an existing array to slice or merge

RAID

Show : ☒ Array ☐ Drives

Information	Value
Array No.	1
Status	On-line
RAID Type	Evaluation
Stripe Size	256 KB
Sector Size	512 Bytes
RAID Level	RAID 5
Capacity	5866 GB
-Slice 0	5866 GB (LUN : 0)

② Set slice size and alias

Slice 0 ~ 7
Slice 8 ~ 15

Slice 0 : 2933 GB	Slice 1 : 2933 GB	Slice 2 : 0 GB	Slice 3 : 0 GB
Slice 4 : 0 GB	Slice 5 : 0 GB	Slice 6 : 0 GB	Slice 7 : 0 GB

③ I understand that slicing an array or merging slices will cause data on the array to be lost

☒ Confirm

④ Summary

Selected Array No. : 1

OK Cancel

Figure 68: GUI “Slicing 3/3”

Note

Slices must be adjusted in order; for example - Slice 0, Slice 1, Slice 2, etc.

Each array supports a maximum of 16 slices.

4.1.2.8.2 LUN Map

LUN, which stands for **Logical Unit Number**, is used to identify a logical unit in computer storage. When creating an array, you may select **Assign LUN automatically** to automatically assign a LUN to the new array. If **Assign LUN automatically** is not selected, you need to assign the LUN manually using LUN map. If the slice has been partitioned, you need to set its LUN Map.

Note

One slice can only be assigned one LUN.

Note

The ExaSAN RAID controller supports up to 64 LUNs.

1. Select the array to map by clicking on a drive with an array number.
2. Choose a LUN and from the drop down list select a slice to map to. Repeat for multiple LUNs.

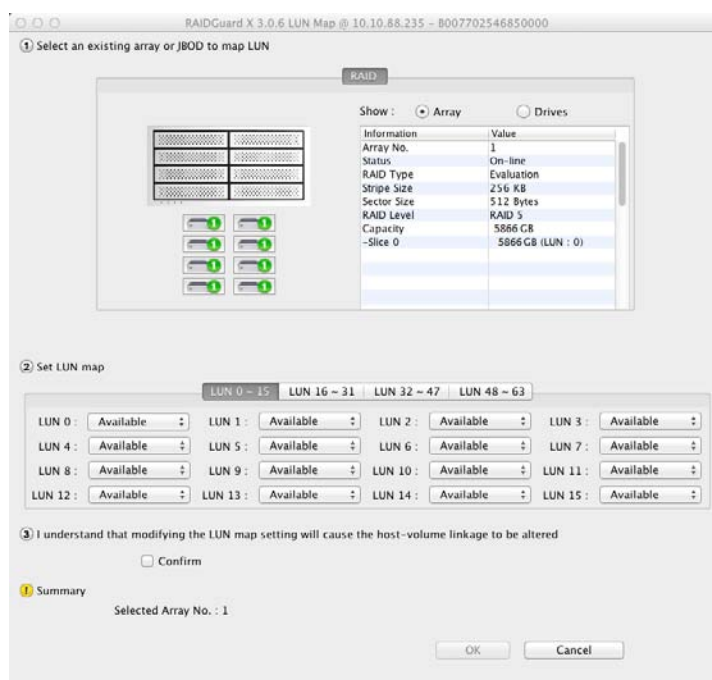


Figure 69: GUI “Lun mapping 1/3”

3. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK**.

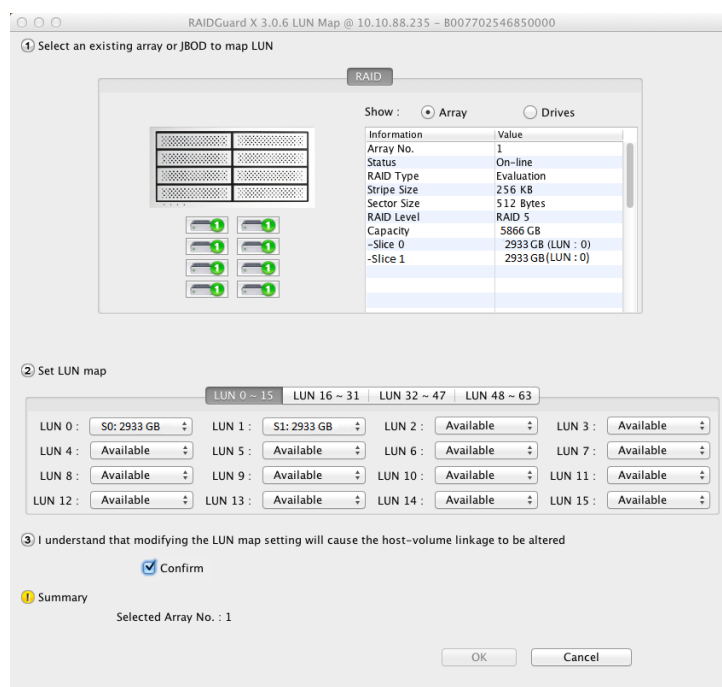


Figure 70: GUI “Lun mapping 2/3”

- If you attempt to assign a LUN to a slice that has already been assigned a LUN, a warning prompt appears.



Figure 71: GUI “Lun mapping 3/3”

4.1.2.8.3 Expansion

Expansion adds spare disks or new hard drives to an existing array. This is no need to create a new array or stop an array; you may add new disks online while the array is in use. Expansion can enlarge the capacity and frequency of an array. Although you may still access the array while doing Expansion, its performance is affected considerably. You may check the progress of Expansion in the main view.

Example:



Figure 72: Expansion concept

Note

The storage capacity of a new hard drive must be no smaller than the other disks in the array.

Note

The ExaSAN RAID Controller allows you to create a maximum of 4 arrays with 24 maximum drives in each array. This may limit the flexibility of the Expansion feature.

Follow the steps below to select an array to expand.

1. Select the array to add additional drives to, and select the number of drives to be added. A "+" sign appears above the drives to be added.
2. Check the **Confirm** box and click **Expand Array**.

Note

It is only the number of drives that can be chosen, not the specific drive.

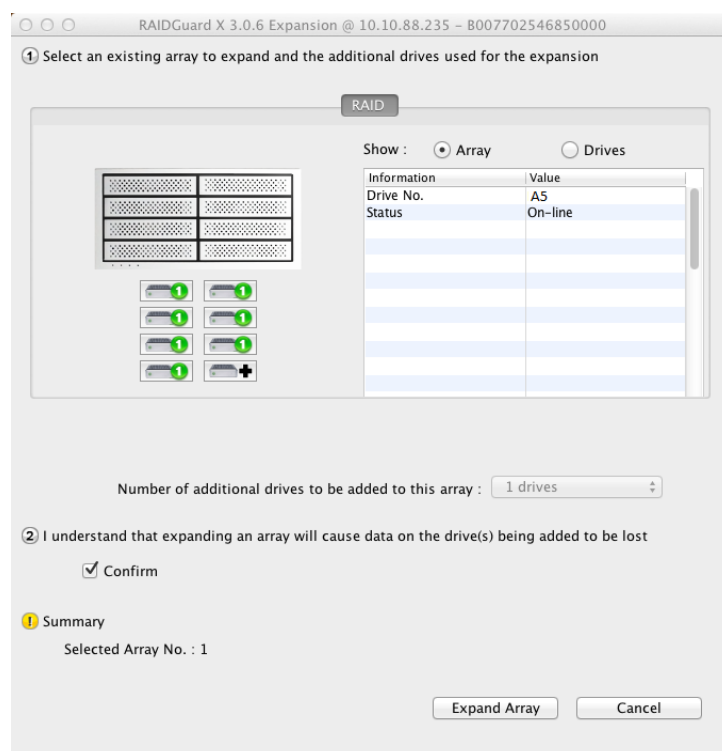


Figure 73: GUI “expansion 1/2”

3. The Main array information screen will indicate that the array is currently under expansion.

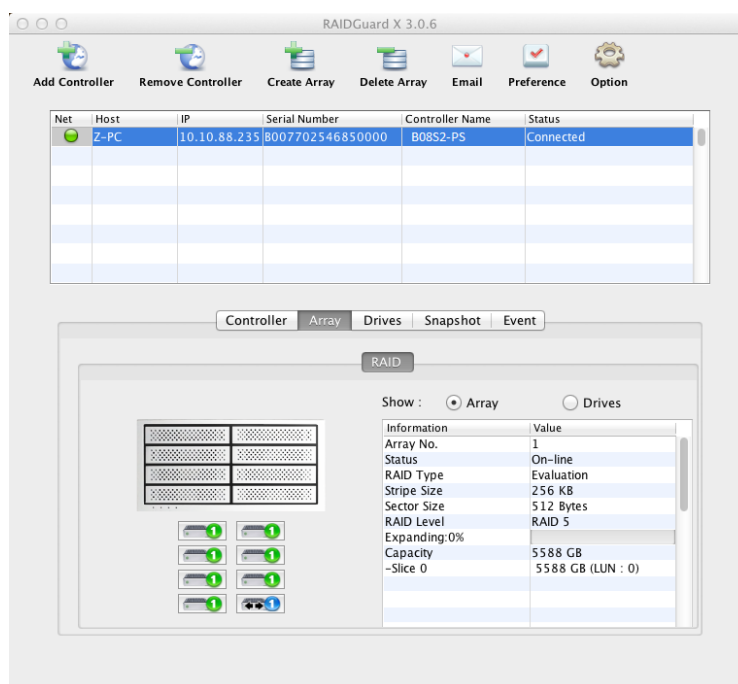


Figure 74: GUI “expansion 2/2”

4.1.2.8.4 Migrations

Different from Expansion, which enlarges an array by adding hard drives to a fixed RAID level, Migration changes the RAID level of an array. It allows live changes to the RAID without the need to delete the array and rebuild. This can be useful when new drives have been added, and a new array type needs to be created.

The number of drives required for migrations to different RAID levels varies.

Example 1:

RAID 5 (12 drives) –Migrating→ RAID 0 (>11 drives)

RAID 5 (12 drives) –Migrating→ RAID 6 (>13 drives)

RAID 5 (12 drives) –Migrating→ RAID 0+1 (>22 drives)

Example 2:

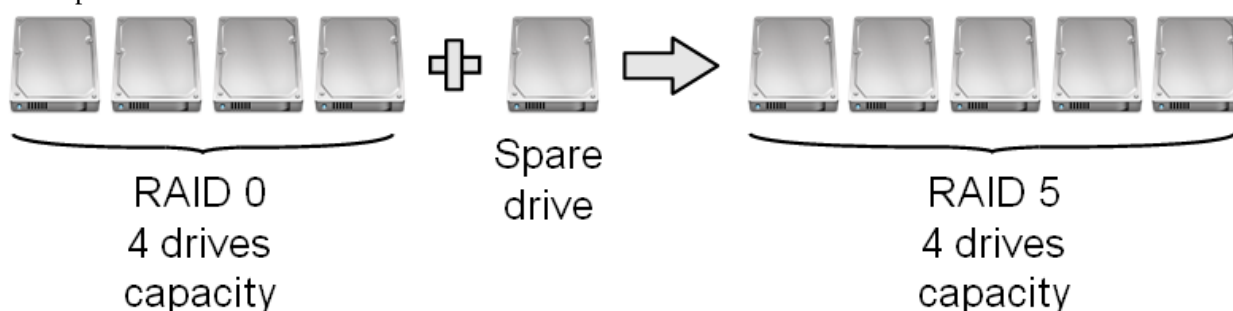


Figure 75: Migration example 2

Example 3:

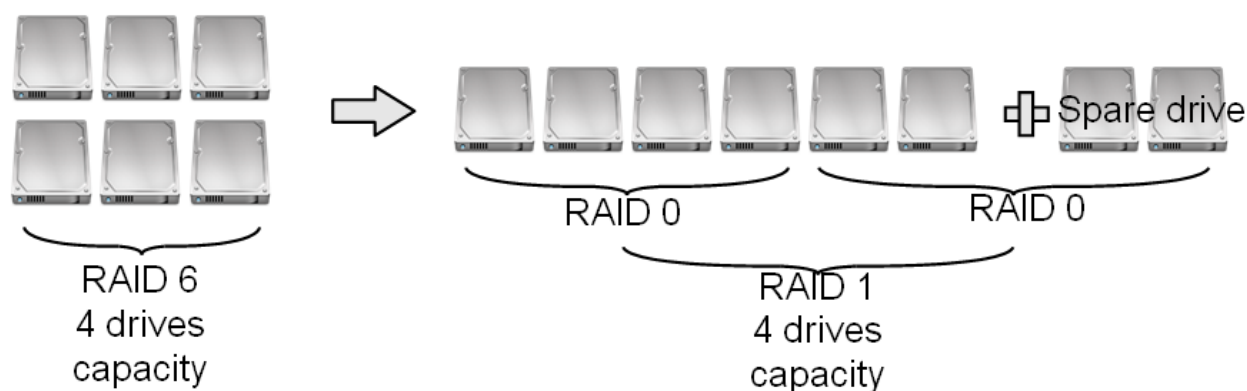


Figure 76: Migration example 3

Note

The capacity of an array after migration can not be smaller than the capacity of the array before migration.

Follow the steps below to select an array to migrate. This changes the RAID level, such as from RAID 1 to RAID 5.

1. Select the array to migrate. From the drop down menu, select the RAID level to migrate to, and then select the total number of drives to include in the array. A “+” appears above the drive(s) to be added, and a “-” sign above the drive(s) to be removed.
2. Check the **Confirm** box and click **Migrate**.

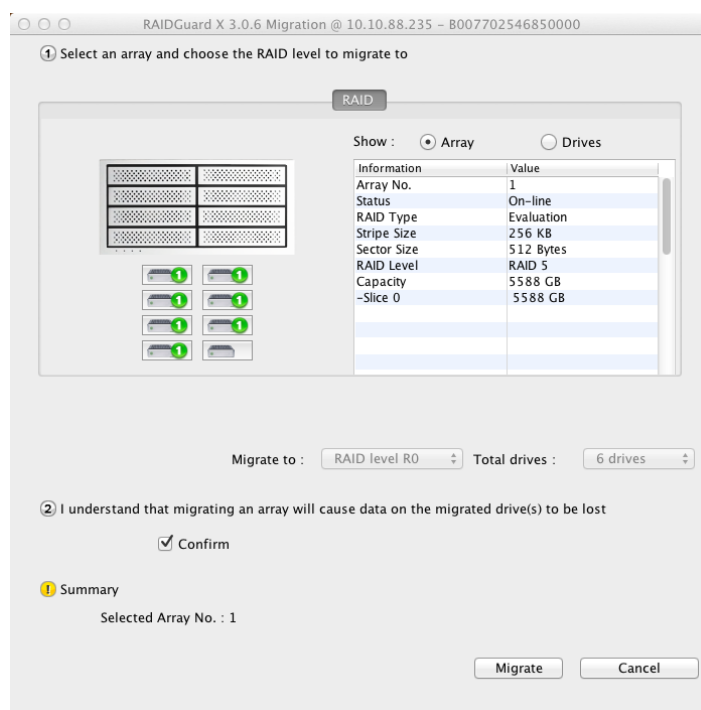


Figure 77: GUI “Migration”

3. The main array information screen will indicate that the array is currently migrating.

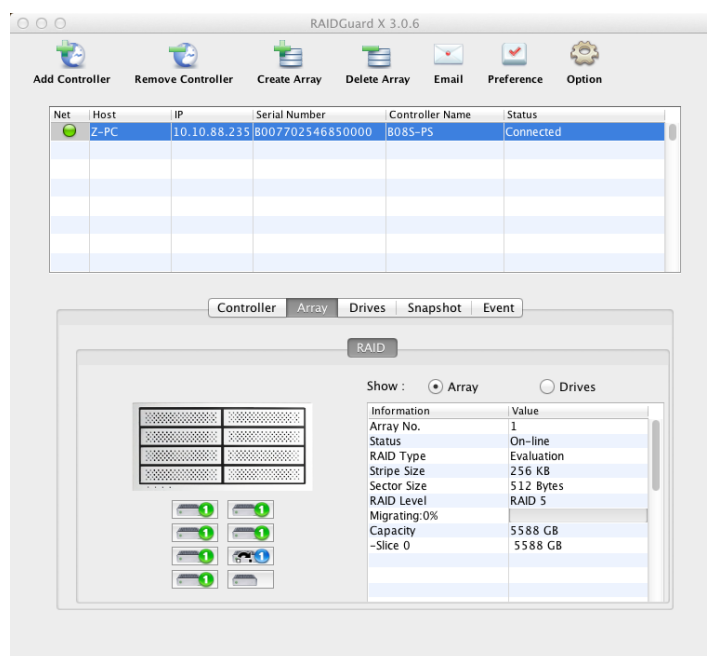


Figure 78: GUI “Migration percentage”

4.1.2.8.5 Snapshot

A snapshot is initialized with a data sync task running in the background to duplicate the data from a source to a target. The host I/O data is also replicated in the target. The mirror snapshot is offered by the ExaSAN RAID controller.

Note

The source and target volume of the snapshot must be identical.

Before setting a snapshot, you need to set the slice in the array. The capacity of each slice and the number of shots should be in accordance with the space you need.

Suppose that an array has the capacity of 30 TB, you may divide it into three slices of 10TB. You must set the LUN map for the first slice. Setting the LUN map for the other two slices is not required.

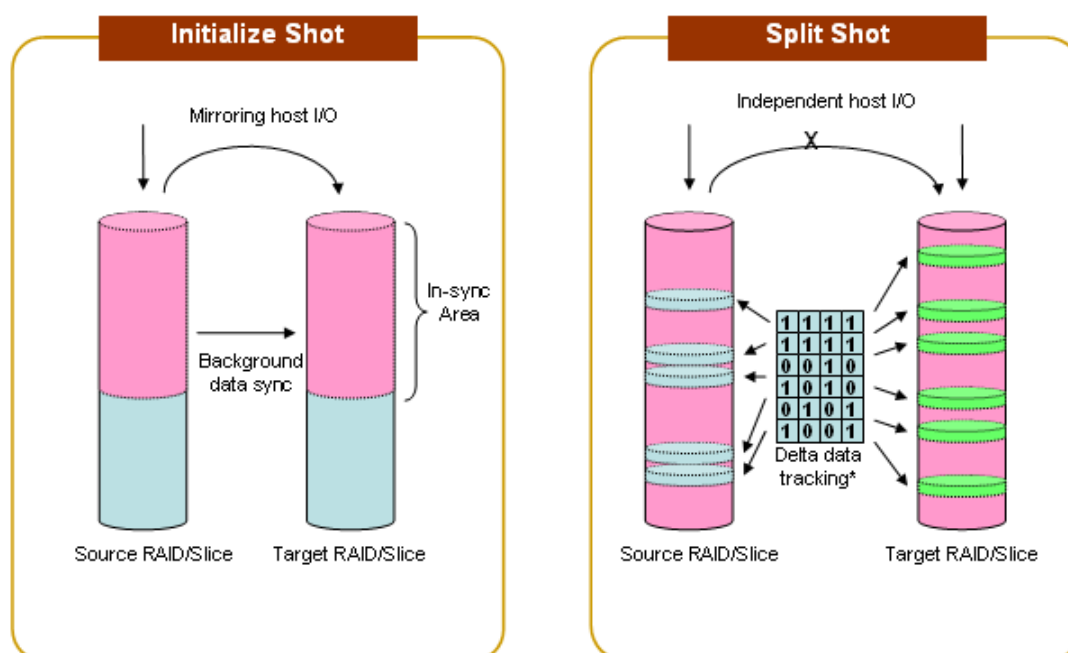


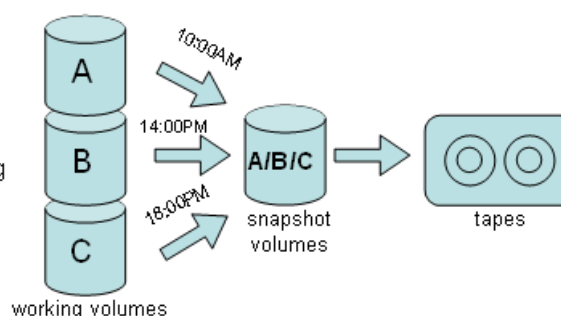
Figure 79: Snapshot concept

In the figure above, a snapshot can be created by splitting the source and target after the background sync is completed. The I/O mirroring is stopped, and the difference is under tracking in a bitmap table to support fast re-sync.

Usage Scenario:

■ Optimizing tape backup

- One repository volume for storing the shot data from multiple working volume
- Snapshots are created for each working volume one at a time
- Backup software to read the snapshot volume to do full or incremental backup



■ Regular disk-based backup

- One working volume with multiple snapshot volumes
- Snapshots are created at different point of time for the working volume
- Users can restore from any of snapshot volume at different point of time

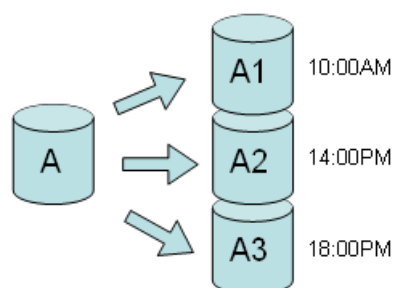


Figure 80: Two types of snapshot function

Create Shot

Creates a snapshot of the selected slice. A maximum of 8 shots can be created. Once all shots have been used, older shots must be deleted before new ones can be taken.

1. Select the **Create Shot** function from the drop down menu.
2. Select the required shot by clicking on the Shot No. radio button. From the respective drop down menus, select the source volume and destination volume. Unavailable shots are grayed out.
3. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK** to take a snapshot.

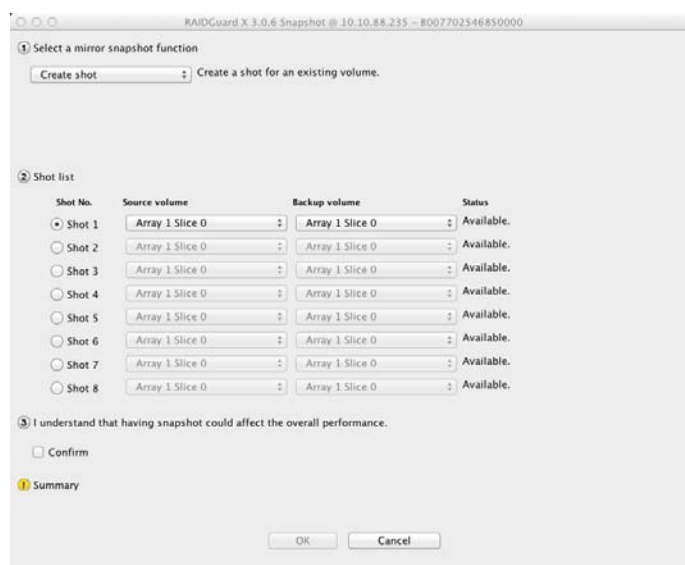


Figure 81: GUI “Snapshot setting 1/2”

Delete Shot

Deletes the selected shot.

1. Select the **Delete Shot** function from the drop down menu.
2. Select the required shot by clicking on the Shot No. radio button. From the respective drop down menus, select the source volume and destination volume. Unavailable shots are grayed out.
3. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK** to delete a snapshot.

Split Shot

Split Now –

Splits the selected shot or changes scheduling. The shot is split and read as two separate shots; therefore, it becomes two separate slices after being split.

1. Select the **Split Shot** function from the drop down menu.
2. Select the Split Now radio button.
3. Select the required shot by clicking on the Shot No. radio button. From the respective drop down menus, select the source volume and destination volume. Unavailable shots are grayed out.
4. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK** to split the snapshot.

Split Scheduling –

Set any time to split shot.

1. Select the **Split Shot** function from the drop down menu.
2. Select the Split Scheduling radio button.
3. Click on the time and date button to set split time.
4. Select the required shot by clicking on the Shot No. radio button. From the respective drop down menus, select the source volume and destination volume. Unavailable shots are grayed out.
5. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK** to split the snapshot.

Cancel Scheduling –

Cancel the split shot scheduling.

1. Select the **Split Shot** function from the drop down menu.
2. Select the Cancel Scheduling radio button.
3. Select the required shot by clicking on the Shot No. radio button. From the respective drop down menus, select the source volume and destination volume. Unavailable shots are grayed out.
4. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK** to split the snapshot.

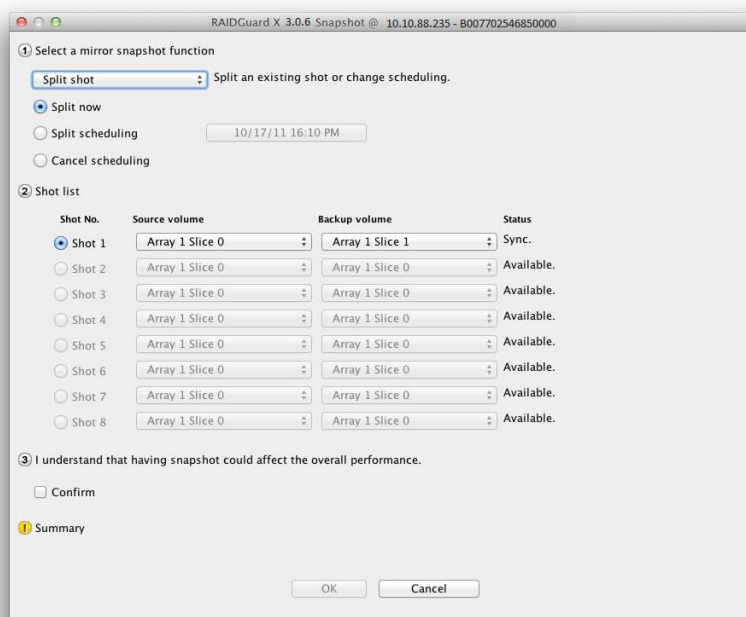


Figure 82: GUI “Snapshot setting 2/2”

Resynchronize Shot

Resynchronize the selected shot. This function can speed up mirroring for previous snapshots.

1. Select the **Resynchronize shot** function from the drop down menu.
2. Select the required shot by clicking on the Shot No. radio button. You can only select split shot for resynchronization.
3. Check the **Confirm** box and click **OK** to split the snapshot.

Note

1. The destination volume must be equal or larger in size than the source volume.
2. The source volume and the destination volume can be on different arrays.
3. The destination volume must NOT be mapped to a LUN.
4. A shot will not be deleted if the details of the array change. The only way to delete a shot is using the Delete Shot function under Snapshot.

4.1.2.8.6 Health Center

To ensure the accuracy of the RAID parity data, ExaSAN RAID controller offers Background checking and “Rebuild parity data”. During checking or rebuilding parity, the performance of the array will be affected. You may check the progress of in the Main view or in the Health Center.

Follow the steps below to select an array to verify, rebuild, or condition.

1. Select the Array to verify, rebuild, or condition.
2. Click the radio button to:

Rebuild the parity data – Rebuilding parity on an array uses the data on the array to create new parity data, no repair problems with the data.

Verify the parity data – Verify that the data is free of errors.

Refresh array data and parity – Select the priority between Low, Med., or High. This process scans, rewrites, and scrubs bad data conditions caused by excessive vibration during drive I/Os, or data degradation caused by Adjacent Track Interference (ATI).

3. Click OK to start the operation.

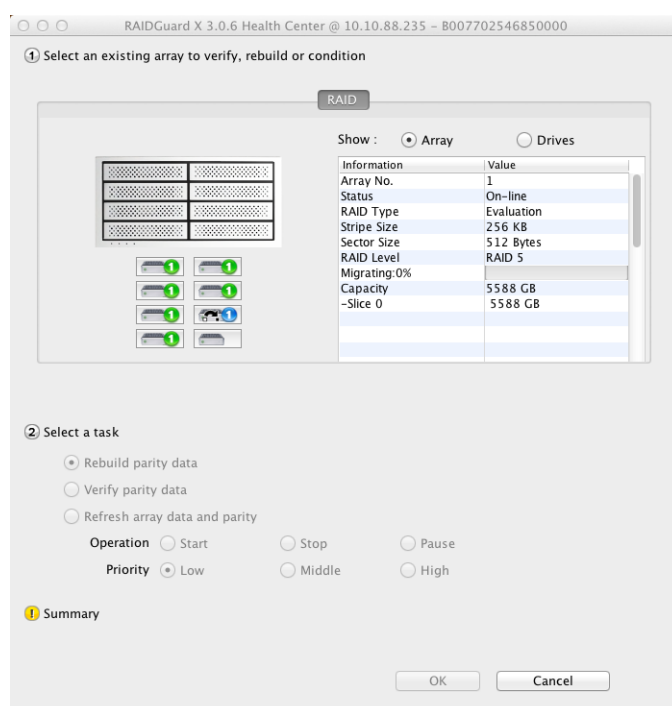


Figure 83: GUI “health center”

4. The main array information screen will indicate that the array is undergoing rebuilding, verification, or refreshing.

4.1.2.8.7 Unlock Drives

The RAID controller may lock abnormal drives in an array. You may unlock these drives and rejoin them in an array. Drives may be locked under one of two conditions:

1. If a drive returns data too slowly, the controller determines the drive is experiencing a fault and executes Drive Drop. When you unlock the drive, it will be added directly to the array if there has not been drive access during the locked period. Otherwise, the controller will rebuild parity data on the drive when the drive is online.

Note

If “Drive Drop” occurs, it is recommended to use S.M.A.R.T. to check the drive condition and replace it if necessary.

2. When replacing a damaged drive with a new one, the newly added drive might be locked. Click Unlock to allow the array to rebuild the drive. You can check the rebuild progress in the Main view.

Note

The time required for on-the-fly initialization, drive building, online expansion and migration may vary according to the capacity of the drive and the array.

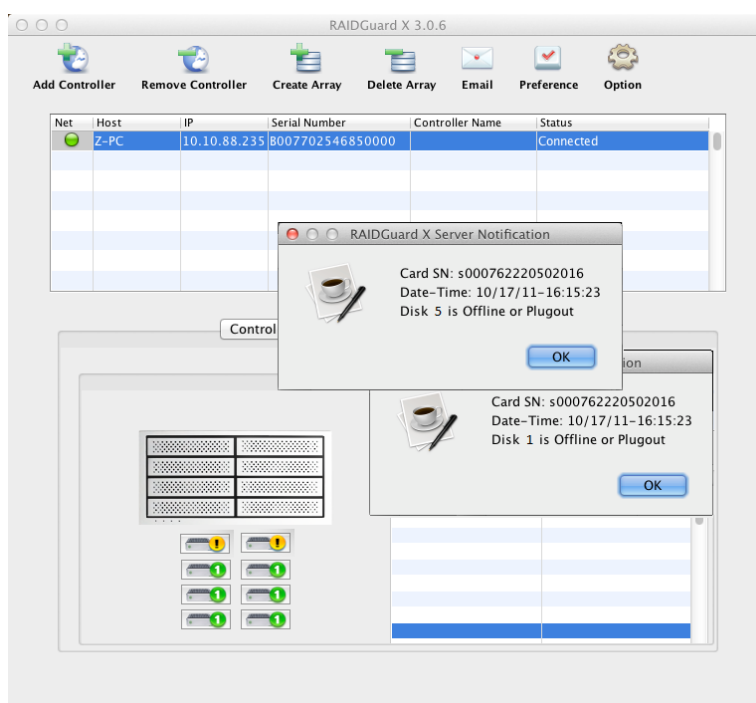


Figure 84: GUI “HDD off-line”

Follow the steps below to select a drive to unlock or change the ID.

Locked drives prevent the accidental loss of user data when drives are installed one at a time, or a RAID member is accidentally removed while the controller is powered on. The meta-data and user data on the

locked drives are preserved for online/offline recovery. If users don't need the data or the locked drive anymore, the locked drive can be changed into a spare drive by the command of Unlock Drive.

1. Select the drive with the  icon. It will change to the  icon.

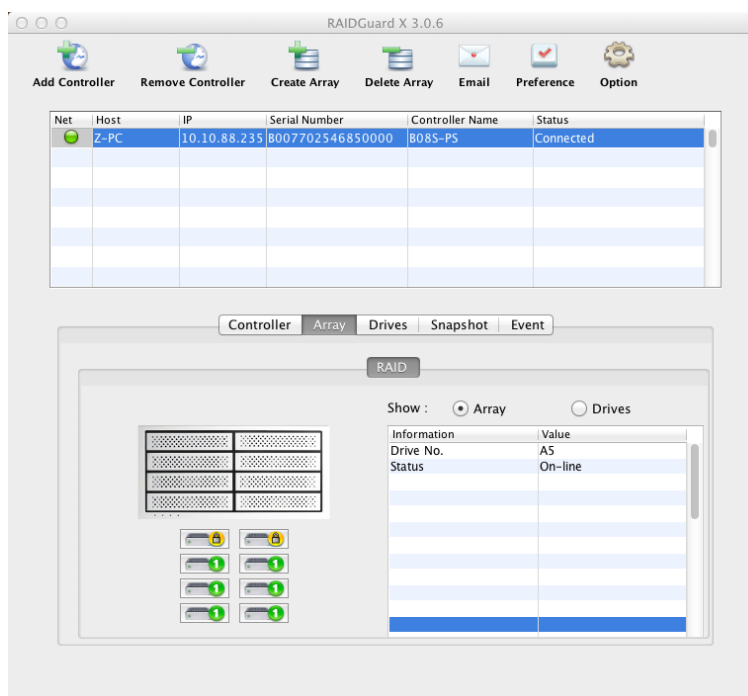


Figure 85: GUI “HDD locked”

2. Check the **Confirm** box and click **Unlock Drive**.

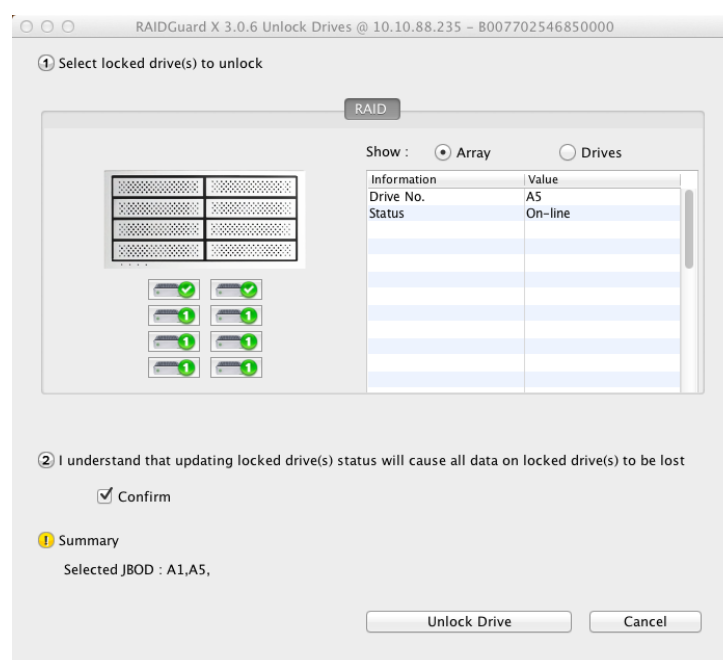


Figure 86: GUI “Unlock HDDs”

4.1.3 Updating the ExaSAN RAID system Firmware

Follow the steps in this section to update the firmware of your ExaSAN RAID system. Use caution to prevent a loss of power to the ExaSAN RAID system during this process.

4.1.3.1 Preparing the Firmware Update Files

1. Note the current System Version, Boot Version, BIOS Version and EFI version on your ExaSAN RAID system. These can be viewed in the Main menu firmware tab.
2. Visit the website below:
http://www.accusys.com.tw/support/download_new.htm
3. Under the “Download” link, locate “ExaSAN” and locate your RAID system and expand the folder.
4. Locate the System Code (firmware), Boot Code, and either BIOS or EFI zip files. Download these files to an identifiable location on your local workstation.

Note

The ExaSAN RAID system is shipped using EFI settings by default. You can update to BIOS mode, but only either EFI or BIOS may be used at any particular time.

If you want to use Mac to boot, please use EFI.

5. Proceed to the next section to install the firmware update files.

4.1.3.2 Installing the Firmware Update Files

Caution

Before updating the firmware, Boot code or BIOS, Right-click on the RAIDGuard X Server icon in the Windows notification area, and check **Remove from Windows Startup**.

1. Select Controller in the Menu bar and select **Update**.

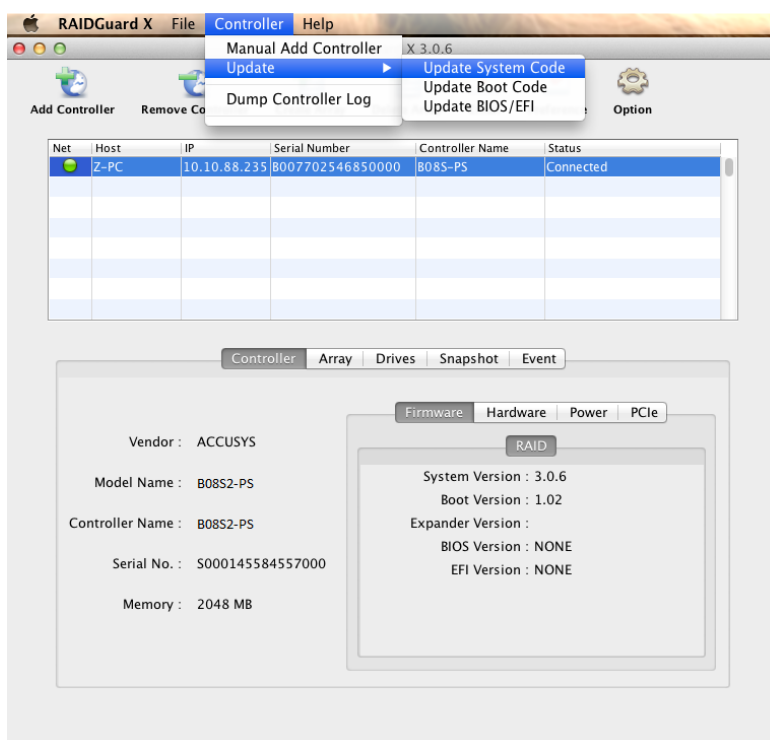


Figure 87: GUI “Update system code (firmware)”

2. Update System Code, Boot Code, BIOS/EFI individually from the download path. During the update process, the RAID system will stop all data access.

Caution

Do NOT interrupt or stop updates that are in progress.

3. Once the updates are complete, make sure to power off the ExaSAN RAID system and host using the proper power down sequence and then power on, again following the proper power on sequence.

5. RAID Overview

5. RAID Overview

This chapter gives an overview of RAID storage system within the context of recommended setting of ExaSAN based SAN environment to provide fast, shared storage to client computers.

5.1 How RAID Works

RAID, or Redundant Array of Independent Disks, is a data-storage technology that spreads data across multiple drives. This technology provides several benefits over a single large hard disk, including:

- Data redundancy for protection and availability
- Higher performance as a result of reading or writing on several drives simultaneously
- Scalability for expansion of storage

The ExaSAN-family RAID systems use a hardware controller, which manages up to 48 HDDs. By segmenting and writing or reading data on multiple drives simultaneously, the RAID controller achieves fast and highly efficient storage and access.

The way the controller stores and retrieves data on the RAID system is determined by the RAID level and storage method you choose. For ExaSAN applications, the recommended setting is mainly RAID 1 and RAID 5, which will be discussed in details later in this chapter.

Once you have defined a group of drive modules as a RAID set, the controller groups those drives into “logical disks.” On the ExaSAN RAID system, each logical disk appears to the client system as one Logical Unit (LUN), regardless of the number of actual drives in that logical unit.

5.2 Data Storage Methods

The controller stores and retrieves data on a RAID system using techniques such as “data striping”, “data mirroring”, and “data parity”.

5.2.1 Data Striping

Multiple hard disk drives in a RAID group, referred to as a “set” or “array,” are divided (partitioned) into stripes. The controller spreads stripes across the disks in alternating sections on each drive.

In data-intensive environments such as digital video editing, performance is optimized by writing data across small stripes, so that each record spans all drives. This method ensures that access to large records is very fast because data is transferred in parallel across multiple drives.

5.2.2 Data Mirroring

To mirror data, the RAID controller duplicates all data on two different disks. One disk is the primary; the other is the mirrored disk. The primary and mirrored disks are synchronized; that is, anything written to one disk is also written to the other. Mirrored data is very secure because if one disk fails, the data is available from the other disk.

5.2.3 Data Parity

The controller can generate “parity” for the ability to protect and rebuild data. Parity protects stored information without requiring data mirroring. When data is protected by parity, it is still available if a drive fails. Parity-protected data is reconstructed using the parity formula. You can remove and replace a failed disk (known as “hot swapping”), and the controller then rebuilds the data using the information on the remaining drives.

5.3 RAID Levels

The ExaSAN RAID system supports several RAID levels and configurations. Each level has a different architecture and provides varying degrees of performance and fault tolerance. Each level has characteristics to achieve maximum performance or redundancy depending on the data environment.

5.3.1 RAID 0: Striping

RAID level 0, striping only, is the fastest and most efficient array type, but offer no fault-tolerance. Any drive failure destroys the data in the array.

5.3.2 RAID 1: Mirroring

RAID level 1, mirroring, has been used for Metadata LUN because of its simplicity and high levels of reliability and availability. Mirroring uses two drives, each drive stores identical data. RAID 1 provides very high data reliability and improved performance for read-intensive applications, but this level has a high capacity cost because it retains a full copy of your data on each drive in mirror set.

In a RAID 1 configuration, the capacity of the smallest drive is the maximum storage area.

5.3.3 RAID 5: Independent data disks with distributed parity

By distributing the parity information across all drives in a set, RAID level 5 achieves high reliability and data availability. It also offers the highest read data transaction rate of all levels along with a medium write rate. The low ratio of ECC (Error Correction Code) parity disks to data disks offers hardware efficiency. Disk failure has a moderate impact on the total transfer rate.

5.3.4 RAID 6: Independent data disks with two Independent parity schemes

RAID level 6 extends RAID level 5 by adding an additional parity block; thus it uses block-level striping with two parity blocks distributed across all member disks. RAID 6 does not have a performance penalty for read operations, but it does have a performance penalty on write operations because of the overhead associated with parity calculations.

RAID 6 is no more space inefficient than RAID 5 with a hot spare drive when used with a small number of drives, but as arrays become bigger and have more drives the loss in storage capacity becomes less important and the probability of data loss is greater. RAID 6 provides protection against data loss during an array rebuild, when a second drive is lost, a bad block read is encountered, or when a human operator accidentally removes and replaces the wrong disk drive when attempting to replace a failed drive.

5.3.5 RAID 0+1: Striped set with Mirroring

RAID 0+1 combines the advantages of RAID 0 and RAID 1 with none of the disadvantages. RAID 0+1 creates a mirror of the primary striped set. RAID 0+1 provides optimal speed and reliability.

6. Appendices

Appendix A: FAQs

1. Q: Why is my disk LED status RED?

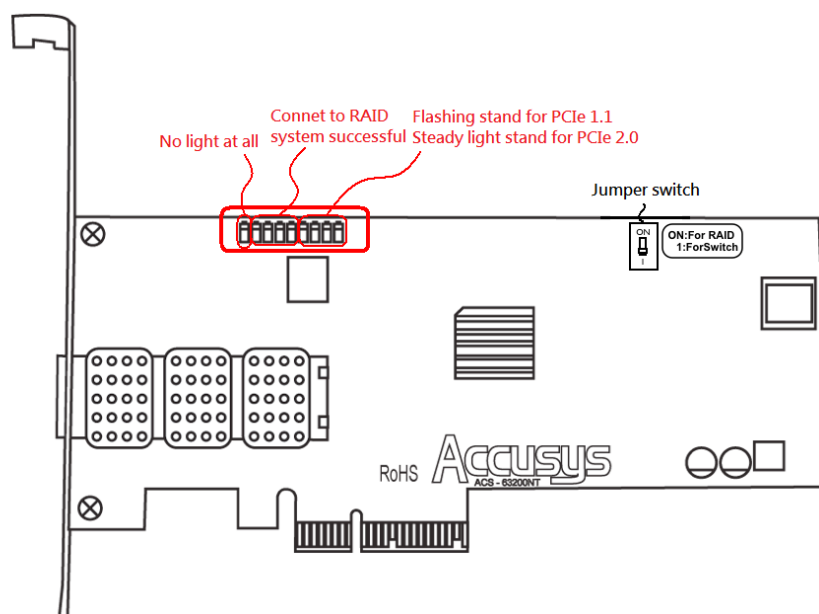
A: This is likely caused by a faulty hard drive. Replace the faulty drive as soon as possible to protect your data.

2. Q: After an array has been created in RAIDGuard X, but the host does not find the array volume.

A: Please check the LUN Mapping to ensure the array volume has been correctly mapped to a LUN. If this is not the case, try restarting the system and it will be automatically recognized. Once LUN is assigned, you can perform formatting and mounting.

3. Q: What does the eight LEDs on the Host Bus Adapter mean?

A: The eight LED indicate the connection status of the HBA (The LED closest to the bracket does not light up.) If you have properly connected the HBA to the B08S2-PS RAID controller, one set of 4 consecutive LEDs will be constantly lit. The second set of 4 consecutive LEDs indicates the type of PCIe connection - flashing LEDs indicate a PCIe Gen1 connection, while steady LEDs indicate a PCIe Gen2 connection.



4. Q: Why doesn't the performance reach the expected levels while testing the B08S2-PS? Why isn't the performance steady enough?

A: If the performance is unsteady or not achieving the expected level, in many cases, the HDD is the cause. Since the B08S2-PS is a highly efficient product, there is extreme demand placed on each HDD. As a result, it is strongly recommended to use the newest enterprise level HDD.

5. Q: Why is the B08S2-PS generating warning beeps?

A: Please check the LED indicators on the B08S2-PS front panel against the appropriate user documentation for your particular storage system. Follow the instructions to launch RAIDGuard X to obtain Event Log information for further analysis.

6. Q: If “Find no RAID card” appears in a Windows host server, how can this be resolved?

A: Please make sure the PCIe cable is properly connected to the back of the host server and the RAID system. Check the Device Manager in Windows to confirm that the correct driver has been installed for the HBA. If both conditions have been verified and the problem persists, please use the “Manually Add Controller” option.

7. Q: On a MAC host, after entering the GUI and adding a controller, there is no device listed. How can this be resolved?

A: Please first confirm whether the hardware environment of the RAID system is functional. Also, ensure that the system drivers have been correctly installed. Next, go to “**Utilities > System Information > Software > Extensions**” and check whether Accusys6xxxx is listed. In order to confirm whether GUI Server Service is running on the system, Go to “**Utilities > Activity Monitor**” and check whether the program name **DTRGuiSrv01** is under the program column. If the situation persists, please verify again that the hardware environment is not the source of the problem and reinstall using the MAC installer.

8. Q: My RAID system has an actual capacity of more than 2 TB, but in Windows XP and Windows 2000, it will only do a full format of less than 2 TB in capacity. How can this be resolved?

A: Since Windows XP 32 bit and Windows 2000 does not support GPT, both can only continue to use MBR (Master Boot Record), which only supports up to 2TB in one volume. To see more than 2TB in a single volume in Windows XP or 2000, go to RAIDGuard X, select “**Create Array**” and set the sector size to 4096 bytes. By doing this, Windows XP and 2000 will be able to format an MBR volume greater than 2TB. However, if the sector size is set to 4096 bytes, it can lower the performance of the RAID.

9. Q: In Windows Vista and Windows 7, after having confirmed that the files on the installation CD have been completely installed, why does it still show “Find no RAID card”?

A: Windows Vista and Windows 7 has a built-in ability to automatically reduce the potential of security breaches in the system. It does that by automatically enabling a feature called User Account Control (UAC). When UAC is enabled, the RAIDGuard X server cannot detect the controller and thus displays the message “Find no RAID card.” To resolve this, disable UAC and run RAIDGuard X server as “administrator”.

Vista:

- a. Control Panel -> User accounts -> Change security settings -> Deselect “Use User Account Control (UAC) to help protect your computer.”
- b. Restart the computer to turn off UAC.

Windows 7:

- a. Type “MsConfig” in Start Search to start System Configuration. Then go to Tools tab, select Change UAC settings, then click on Launch button.
- b. Slide the slider bar to the lowest value (towards Never Notify) with the description showing “Never notify me”.
- c. Restart the computer to turn off UAC.

10. Q: When inserting the HDD into my B08S2-PS, why does RAIDGuard X show the HDD mode as Lock?

A: The lock indicates that the HDD has been previous used in Accusys products and that it contains a portion of a RAID data. If the data can be deleted, you can unlock the HDD.

11. Q: I have connected the cable to the Host server, but I can't see "new disk drive" on the host device management.

A: There are three possibilities:

- a. Please ensure the QSFP cable is connected securely. You should be able to hear a "click" sound when you connect the cable to the connector.
- b. Please check the jumper switch on the HBA. When the switch is in the "On" position, the HBA card is enabled for storage mode for the B08S2-PS. In the "1" position, the HBA is enabled for switch mode for the SW04/08.
- c. Please check if the installer and the driver have been installed correctly. If the installation has completed and the error still persists, it may be a compatibility issue. Send an email to support@accusys.com.tw and briefly describe the problem. Be sure to include the driver error code, the motherboard (or host) model name and the OS. We will contact you to assist you in resolving the issue.

Appendix B: Icons

ICON	Description
Main Menu Icons	
	RAIDGuard X Server icon – The icon that is on the desktop and notification area
	Add / Delete a controller – Select the controller to administer
	Create / Delete an array – Change the arrays within the RAID system.
	Preferences – Activate alarms, mode settings, cache settings, password, and controller card time.
	Email – Set the addresses to send e-mail alerts to.
	Option – Set the Slice, expansion, migration, health, disk locking, LUNs, and take a snapshot of the array.
Option Menu Icons	
	Slicing an array into several parts
	LUN Map – Assign a LUN to a slice
	Expand an array to larger capacity by adding disks
	Migrate from one RAID level to another target RAID level
	Snapshot – Create a backup of a slice
	Health Center – Repair / Maintain arrays
	Unlock – Fix locked drives
Application Icons	
	Drive icon
	Drive belongs to Array 1, 2, 3, 4
	A drive being deleted in Array 1, 2, 3, 4
	A JBOD drive being selected
	JBOD being deleted
	A drive being selected
	An offline drive
	A locked drive

	A drive being selected for expansion / migration / rebuilding
	A transition drive state during the array 1, 2, 3, 4, migration
	A transition drive state during the array 1, 2, 3, 4, expansion
	A transition drive state during the array 1, 2, 3, 4, auto-rebuild
	RAID Levels

Appendix C: Customer Service and Support

C.1 System Log

When you contact us for technical support, our support staff might ask for your system log file for troubleshooting purpose.

Go to the ExaSAN switch GUI, select the “Event Management” icon. Follow instructions there to download the log file.

C.2 Contact Us

For customer services and technical support, locate an Accusys office near you from the link below:

<http://www.accusys.com.tw/about/contact.htm>

Or, you may email us at support@accusys.com.tw

C.3 Our Website

Please visit our websites frequently for the most up-to-date product and support information.

All countries: www.accusys.com.tw

Korea: <http://accusys.co.kr>